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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

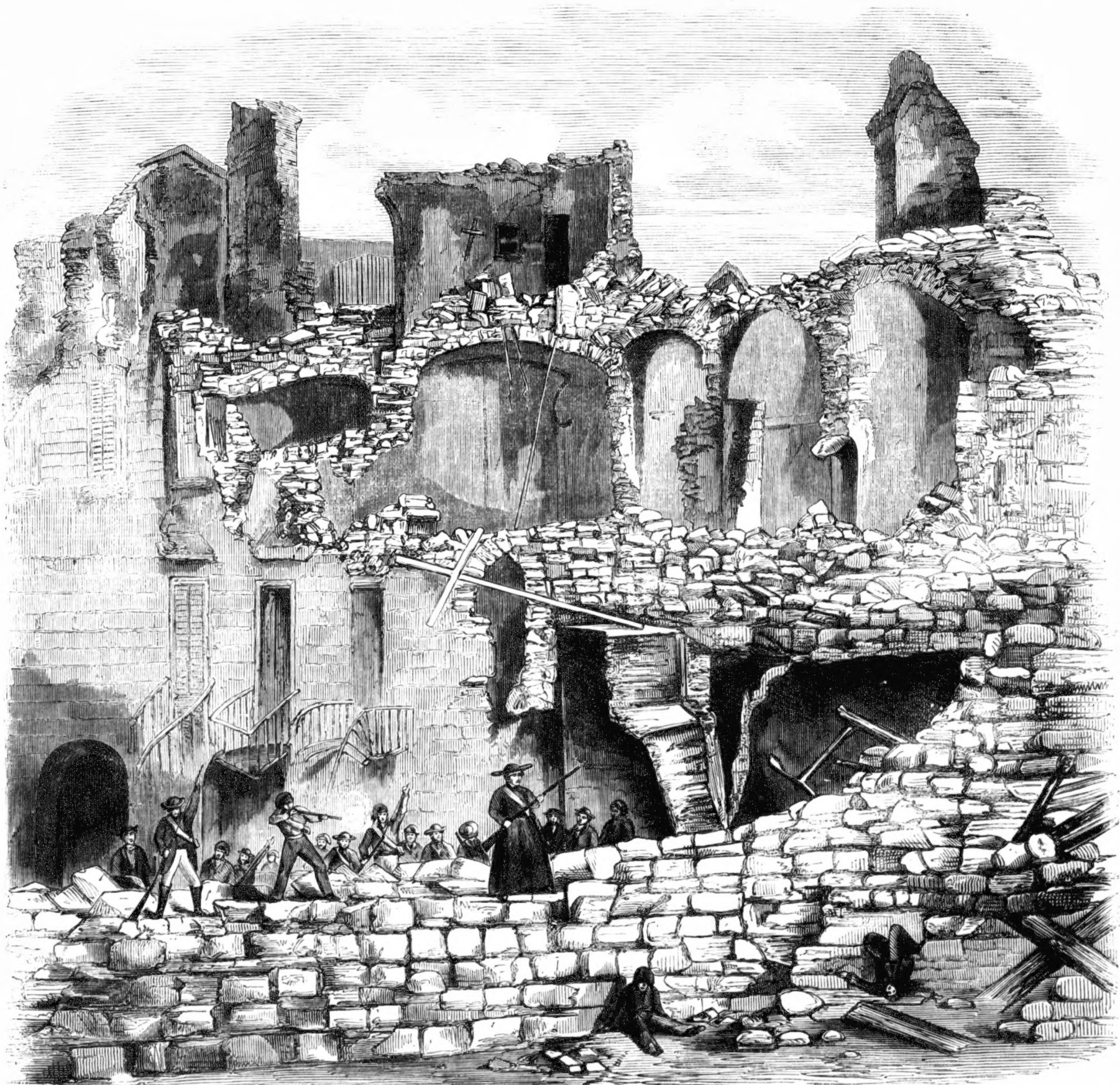
By this time the Prince of Wales is well on his way to the American Continent. In ages like ours personages of his rank are not so familiarly known to their subjects as the old feudal monarchs were. They are symbols rather than men, and are discussed very much as if they were abstractions. But the Prince has had as English and as popular an education as was well possible. He has appeared in public as much as became his years; he has taken a part in the sports of the country, and studied at more than one of its seats of learning. The public have an impression that he is cultivated and that he is amiable, and he enters on his high destiny with as much promise as can attend any scion of a Royal line in these times of perplexity and change.

It is characteristic of our monarchy that the Prince's doings should be viewed as representative rather than as of vivid personal interest. Little character, little originality, is expected from a modern constitutional ruler. But what such a ruler, or the heir of one, says and does is a reflection of the sense and feeling of the governing part of the community. Viewed

as that, the Prince's journey is a good sign. Not to mention that, considered in itself alone, it is a recognition of the value of traveling in education, and a mode of withdrawing a young Prince from those temptations of idleness which in the case of a late English King brought shame upon his throne, its political significance is considerable. It is a graceful homage to popularity, an act of courtesy to a great colony, the loyalty of which has all the more brilliancy and prestige about it from its geographical position and neighbourhood. We may assume that our neglect of the colonies is repented of, as well as that our Imperial position is to be maintained; both signs of a reaction against tendencies which showed much vitality some years back. That the Prince should extend his visit to the territory of the Great Republic is a gratifying fact also. It is a sign of the wish of Englishmen to live not only in peace but in something of a cordial friendliness with the United States. Like relations in the world of private life, the two kindred countries have their jealousies and quarrels. But as, when there is friendliness between relations the tie is stronger than any other human one, so below the surface England and

America are, in fact, drawn more to each other than any stranger nations can be. By welcoming the Prince, as they mean to do, the Americans will be doing something more than an act of national politeness. They will be recognising those institutions of ours which are as natural on this side of the Atlantic as a widespread democracy, with plenty of elbow-room, is on their own side. Each political system has its advantages and disadvantages, and has been created much more by circumstances than by design; nor would the difference excite so much antagonism if agitators did not exaggerate its importance for purposes of their own.

When we turn to European affairs we find the Italian question still advancing, signs of trouble thickening, intrigue going on actively, and nothing hopeful but the genius of Garibaldi. That Bomba the younger should be able to better his position, as, so far, he seems to have done, by the stale old trick of promising a "Constitution," is a bad sign. With that family a constitution is the oats by which the horse is coaxed to approach, while the despotic halter is kept ready in the other hand. It means nothing, for even if set going it will be



THE SICILIAN INSURRECTION.—THE BARRICADE IN FRONT OF THE RUINS OF THE MONASTERY OF SANTA KATARINA, PALERMO.

rotten at the centre, from the simple fact that the family which is to administer it is incurable. And, of course, it will be abolished at the very first reaction of that despotism which now takes its turn with revolution in the affairs of the Continent. Meanwhile, what is to become of Sicily? and what is to be the employment of the Pope's troops? There is reason to believe that the despotic Powers generally fear the further progress of a movement that seems likely to produce a united and liberal Italy; and that the most crafty, active, and prominent of them is preparing to hamper it by supporting compromises like this hypocritical Constitution of which we have just spoken. Nothing can be better than the care with which Garibaldi avoids giving Louis Napoleon any excuse for intervention. And it is to be hoped that British influence is exerted in the same direction. It is our interest that the Italian movement should be a thorough success, not a success of which French diplomacy shall reap the profits at every turn. At present the movement retains the monarchical character, which the able lead of Sardinia and the loyal feeling of Garibaldi towards his Sovereign has enabled it to do. And England's game is to support it in this as the only course that can bring the Italians into anything like a rational political system. Sardinia must be made independent at once of the despotic element from without, and the ultra-revolutionary one within, Italy, if the whole movement is not to end in a failure all the more humiliating from the exultation with which it has been accompanied so far.

The time is not yet come to discuss fully the very important development given to the Eastern difficulty by the massacres in Syria and the consequent French intervention. At present we can only point out the serious nature of it, and caution our readers at the same time to be cautious in pronouncing upon the position. What we know with certainty so far is that of the semi-barbarous tribes of Lebanon the heathen ones have lately got the upper hand, and have used the advantage brutally, thanks to the weakness (we are not justified in saying the complicity) of the Turkish Government. But, however shocking this is, it is a kind of thing that is by no means new, except in as far as this time it has gone greater lengths than usual. The Druses and Maronites—the latter being Christians after a rude, imperfect fashion—are nearly always at war, just as the Scotch Highland clans used to be two or three centuries since. Everybody who knows anything of the East knows that this is an established fact of Syrian life. If the Porte governed its possessions as civilised Powers do and can this would not take place. But, then, we knew that the Porte did not or could not do this, long ago—long before we fought for it against Russia; and, knowing this, we vanquished, in the Porte's interest, Mehemet Ali, whose instinct, as a man of governing intellect, led him to maintain "order" wherever his influence extended. It may be that it is now time to reconsider this policy—to repent of maintaining Turkey at the expense of the barbarism of provinces under her sceptre. But do not let us be hypocrites in the matter, and do not let us mistake it. France's intervention means that she knows the situation perfectly well. French politicians have long had an eye on Syria; and we were never so near a war with her as when they took the side of Mehemet Ali in the controversies which led to the Syrian war of 1840. Perhaps the present Emperor, whose luck is greater, as his policy is more daring, than that of Louis Philippe, has hit upon a better occasion for extending his influence in the East. Turkey is in very bad odour just now; and not the less so with his French Majesty since he began to think the Russian alliance so well worth courting. Does the reader smell a rat? Perhaps he may. We say nothing more, this time; and assuredly we are not for winking at crimes against Christians or their friends anywhere—less so from Turkey, indeed, than from other hands. But we mean to advance slowly in this matter till we see all its bearings. Let us know, exactly, what the Turkish authorities have done during these dreadful proceedings, and what the ulterior intentions of the French Emperor are.

THE BARRICADE IN FRONT OF THE MONASTERY OF SANTA KATARINA.

CONCERNING the Illustration on the foregoing page our Artist writes as follows:—"The barricade in front of the Monastery of Santa Katarina at Palermo was stoutly defended by the insurgents, foremost among whom was a priest who, by his example, induced his companions in danger to brave the shot and shell that were being continually thrown amongst them by the cannon on the Piazza Reale and by the mortars of the castle. The occupants of the monastery had fortunately taken refuge in a place of security before the bombardment commenced, having secreted themselves in an underground passage leading to a house at the back of Senate-square."

DOTATION OF THE BONAPARTE PRINCES.—By the death of Prince Jerome a credit of 1,000,000*fr.* a year, appropriated by the Senatus-Consultum of 1853 to his civil list as French Prince is left disposable. According to the terms of that document, a sum of 1,500,000*fr.* a year was devoted to the dotation of the Princes of the Imperial family, which sum was divided by the Emperor in the following manner:—1,000,000*fr.* to Prince Jerome, 300,000*fr.* to Prince Napoleon, and 200,000*fr.* to Princess Mathilde. At the period of Prince Napoleon's marriage another Senatus-Consultum raised his dotation from 500,000*fr.* to 1,000,000*fr.*

THE TREATY WITH FRANCE.—On Saturday morning was issued with the Parliamentary notices the copy of a second additional article of the Treaty of Commerce concluded between her Majesty and the Emperor of the French, signed at Paris on the 27th ult. This article is as follows:—"It having been found impossible to conclude the negotiation of the arrangement which is to fix, according to paragraph 1 of article 13 of the Treaty of Commerce concluded between Great Britain and France on the 23rd of January last, the rate of the specific duties to be levied on British merchandise imported into France, within the period stipulated by the said article, the high contracting parties have considered it advisable, in the interest of the respective commerce of the two countries, to make a fresh arrangement with a view to ensure the gradual execution of the aforesaid treaty within the periods affixed by the same. In consequence whereof the undersigned, invested with full powers on the part of her Majesty the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, on the one side, and his Majesty the Emperor of the French, on the other, have agreed upon the following articles:—1. Instead of a single convention establishing the specific duties to be paid by British merchandise imported into France, three separate conventions shall be successively concluded; the first of which shall comprise bar and pig iron, steel, and worked metals, machines, tools and mechanical instruments of all sorts; the second, yarns and manufactures in flax and hemp; the third, all other articles of British production and manufacture enumerated in article 1 of the Treaty of the 23rd of January. 2. These conventions shall be negotiated, concluded, and ratified in such a manner as to come into force with respect to the articles to which they apply at each of the periods fixed by article 15 of the treaty of which they will form the complement. Nevertheless, the last of these conventions shall be concluded and ratified before the 1st of November next. The present additional article shall have the same force and validity as if it had been inserted in the Treaty of Commerce of the 23rd of January last."

LORD BROUGHAM AND THE PRECEDENTS QUESTION.—The annual dinner of the Law Amendment Society was held on Saturday—Lord Brougham presiding. His Lordship again expressed himself strongly in favour of the establishment of a department of justice, having at its head a responsible Minister. The noble Lord, in proposing the health of the House of Lords, said that it had lately exhibited signs of vitality, but it "ought to be aware that it is one thing to be stoutly alive, and another to be troublesomely kicking."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

On Monday afternoon Prince Metternich had a long conference with M. Thouvenel in reference to the initiative which France has resolved to take in favour of the Christians in Syria, as well as to claiming the concurrence of the great Powers on the same subject. Immediately after this conference Count Hoyos, Secretary of the Austrian Embassy, left Paris with despatches for the Austrian Cabinet at Vienna. M. Thouvenel had previously sent instructions to the Marquis de Lavalette directing him to inform the Porte that France, from feelings of humanity as well as in consequence of former conventions concluded with Turkey, is bound to put a stop to the horrible massacres of the Christians in Syria. The Turkish authorities not being capable of protecting the Sultan's own subjects, France would concert with the other Powers the most efficacious means for preventing the bloody scenes of which Syria had become the theatre. Orders were at the same time sent to Admiral Jéhanne at Naples directing him to dispatch the *Donawerth* and *Egmont*, to cruise before Beyrout; but we are told the Commanders of the two vessels sent are to abstain from all intervention, and to confine themselves to protecting the French Consuls and to offering refuge to all Christians who might apply for it.

The French Emperor received in audience at the Palace of St. Cloud on Sunday M. le Comte de Varenne, sent to this Court on a special mission by General Garibaldi.

The Court has left Fontainebleau for St. Cloud, where, it is thought, they will remain until after the fête of the 15th of August. After the fête of August their Majesties will proceed to Savoy and Nice, and afterwards make an excursion to Corsica and Algeria.

BELGIUM.

The Belgian war budget for 1861 is fixed at 32,335,010*fr.*

The King of the Belgians paid a visit to Ghent a few days since, and received an address from the local authorities. His Majesty said in reply:—

"The spot on which we are assembled calls to mind ancient and glorious recollections. These old communes were the seat of commerce, industry, and fine arts, when a large portion of Europe was still in darkness. From the most distant times the love of country and of its independence has been preserved as a sacred fire in the hearts of its inhabitants. The most precious blood was often spent to obtain a free and national existence. Success did not crown those noble efforts. It was reserved for us to found upon the largest basis that which the country so much desired, and to make it the home of all that constitutes the happiest political and social existence. It is thus that we were found by the tempest which in 1848 convulsed Europe, in which alone to our glory we escaped all dangers, our political existence remaining uninjured. Whatever may be the trials of the future, 1848 shows us how we can pass through them with honour and success. Two generations of my family have been born in your midst, and have with you a common country. My devotion to you during the long reign is known, and so long as it shall please Providence to preserve me I will remain faithful at my post, and immovable in my paternal affection for you."

SPAIN.

The official *Gazette* announces that an exhibition of the fine arts will be held at Madrid at the end of October.

There is a story that the Court party, anxious for the fate of the King of Naples, is about to send him a General in the Count de Reuss (Colonel Prim).

PORTUGAL.

There has been a Ministerial crisis in Portugal, and a new Ministry has been formed by the Marquis de Loulé, as follows:—Marquis de Loulé, President; Senhor Kemo Mixace, Justice; Senhor D'Avila, Foreign Affairs; Senhor Garciaus, War; Senhor Bento da Silva, Marine; Senhor Horta, Public Works.

ITALY.

The effective of the Papal army under General Lamoricière amounts to 19,000 men; but desertions are numerous, we are told. The General having withdrawn his troops into the interior, insurrectionary movements have broken out at Santagala, Montefeltro, and near Cattolica. The *Adriatic Journal* states that the Pontifical troops stationed at Pesaro were ready for departure. Their destination, however, was not known. 1500 Austrians had been sent to Urbino. 557 Irish volunteers had disembarked at Ancona and committed disorders at Sinigaglia, which were repressed by the Papal Carabiniers. The army is being paid at the same rate as when on service in the field.

It is asserted that the Commander-in-Chief of the French troops at Rome has received orders from Paris not to allow any popular manifestations to take place at Rome.

The Duke de Grammont is expected to return to his post as Ambassador at Rome between the 15th and 20th of July.

The Bishop of Faenza has been condemned at Turin to three years' imprisonment and a fine of 4000*fr.* for contempt of the Royal authority.

A reactionary conspiracy is said to have been discovered in Pisa. Considerable sums of money were found in the possession of the conspirators. The Grand-Ducal party felt certain of success, and had even fixed the day for the Grand Duke's entrance into Florence. Among the persons arrested at Pisa there are several priests, in whose hands letters have been seized which implicate various prelates at Rome, and even Cardinal Antonelli.

PRUSSIA.

In a letter from Baden we read:—"Notwithstanding the denials given by some newspapers it is certain that the Prince Regent of Prussia, during the late conference here, drew the attention of the other Sovereigns to the state of things in Italy. The King of Naples had directed the Marquis d'Antonini, the Neapolitan Ambassador at Paris, who is well known to the Prince, to request his Royal Highness to defend in the Conference the monarchical interests threatened in Sicily. The Prince Regent, in reply, gave the Marquis to understand that he acceded to his request, and his Royal Highness not only remarked during the Conference upon the state of affairs in Italy, but also caused an exchange of views on that question to take place between the Powers in the ordinary diplomatic course."

A decree suspending the sittings of the Cortes has been read to the Spanish Chambers.

AUSTRIA.

The publication of the budget of the Austrian War Department, which has just been made at Vienna, is said to have produced a painful impression. The public are surprised to see 1,000,000 florins set down in it for the troops of the Duke of Modena, whom he took with him from Italy. The Austrians say that, as the Duke possesses an immense fortune (the greater part of which is invested in the English funds), he ought to pay for these troops, and not throw the burden of doing so on the Austrian taxpayers, who are grievously suffering from the supplementary war taxes. It is believed that the item will be energetically protested against in the Council of the Empire. The report that the Government intends to contract a new loan is contradicted.

It seems that there is to be a second meeting of German Sovereigns at Munich, where, this time, the Emperor of Austria will hold the place filled at Baden by the Prince Regent of Prussia.

According to accounts from Trieste, the Austrian Government is undertaking gigantic works, in order to render the famous quadrilateral perfectly impregnable. At Verona an entire regiment of engineers is employed. Six gun-boats are placed on the lake of Garda, while at Venice measures are being taken for the defence of Venetia. "The Austrians declare," says one of the letters, "that they will be perfectly able to defend the province; and they add that the recent events in Piedmont and Central Italy make it a duty for Austria not to sacrifice her political rights to the ephemeral policy of Sardinian ambition!"

Seventy thousand pamphlets hostile to the Government have been seized on the Gazon frontier of Bohemia. Most of them were in the Magyar language, and were intended for distribution in Hungary.

RUSSIA.

A ukase has appeared ordering that for the future in all the forty-four governments of the empire magisterial investigations in criminal

cases shall be no longer carried on by the police, but shall be confided to certain officers who are appointed, and who belong to the Ministry of Justice. A code of laws for their guidance and for the police has also appeared. Several addresses to the Emperor from the nobles have contained expressions of approval of this reform.

On the 30th ult. the body of the Metropolitan of St. Petersburg and Novgorod, who died on the preceding day, was interred at the Church of the Trinity. The deceased, who was named Gregor, was the first ecclesiastical dignitary in Russia.

The Russian Government is still adding to the amount of its paper money afloat at home. On the 29th of June an Imperial ukase appeared in St. Petersburg decreeing an issue of Treasury bonds to the extent of 15,000,000 of silver roubles, or about £2,500,000. These bonds bear nearly 5 per cent per annum interest.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

Fuad Pacha, whose portrait we engrave on another page, has been dispatched to Syria with full powers to arrest the outrages of the Druses. He will have under his orders 16,000 men, the commander of whom is Halim Pacha. The Turkish Government is shipping corn to Beyrout.

A Council of the whole of the Ministers of the Porte was held on the 25th ult., under the presidency of the Sultan. "His Majesty entered at great length, with unusual firmness, into a review of the causes which have led to the present financial embarrassments. His Majesty then expressed his determination to have a system of real, and not illusory, economy introduced into all the departments of the Government, not excepting the Imperial household, and urged on all present the necessity of co-operation in this effort."

AMERICA.

The Democrats have split upon the nomination for the Presidency—one division selecting Mr. Douglass, the other Mr. Breckenridge. The ground of division is simply this:—The Southern extremists desire that Congress should expressly legalise the holding of slaves in the national territories without reference to the opinions of the population inhabiting these territories, whereas the Douglass party are strictly in favour of non-intervention—that is, of leaving the people to determine for themselves whether or not slavery shall exist on their own soil. The Japanese Ambassadors took their departure on the 29th ult. in the United States' frigate *Niagara*.

In the Senate Mr. Sumner has presented a petition praying for the repeal of the fugitive slave law, the abolition of slavery in the district of Columbia, and the prohibition of the inter-State slave trade. The House of Representatives has requested the President to furnish, next Session, all the information possible as to the disposition made by the British Government of the Africans rescued by British cruisers from slave vessels, and of the officers and crews of those vessels.

Commodore Vanderbilt has refused to carry any more mails for the United States, Congress having adjourned without making any appropriation for that purpose.

The Mexican treaty and the treaty with Spain for the settlement of the claims of the two countries on Mexico have been rejected by the Senate.

From Mexico the news is that "the English had blockaded the port of San Blas, and had landed troops, who kept possession of the mouth of the river. They evacuated the town on the 28th. The cause of these proceedings was believed to be the imprisonment of the British Consul on a charge of smuggling."

INDIA.

A late mail brings us advices from Bombay to June 7, and from Calcutta to May 27.

The report of the Select Committee on the Income Tax Bill was laid before Council on the 26th, the measure having undergone several alterations, but none affecting its main principles.

The *Bombay Times and Standard* says:—"The event of the fortnight is the appearance in our columns of Sir James Outram's protest against the amalgamation of the local and Royal forces. We do not feel under any obligation to reveal the source whence we obtained this important document. It is sufficient that the public interests demanded its appearance. Unless the fine assurances of the Premier and the Indian Minister go for nothing the appearance of this protest ought to end the discussion of this question. Sir James Outram has exhausted the dispute, and let England understand well that if she persevere in the decision supposed to have been taken she is deliberately sacrificing this country to the pleasure of the Horse Guards."

The following farewell order had been published by Lord Clyde:—

Adjutant-General's Office, Calcutta, May 26, 1860.
The labours necessary to complete the pacification of this empire are now over. His Excellency the Viceroy has consented to permit that I may resign the command of her Majesty's forces in India, and retire to England in search of a repose which my age and long service demand. Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Rose, G.C.B., who conducted most gloriously an important part of the late campaigns, will assume the command in my place on the 4th of June.

On leaving this country, I take the opportunity of thanking the officers and soldiers of the two services for their valour and endurance so severely tried, especially in the early part of the insurrection. History does not furnish a more remarkable exhibition of heroic resistance to very adverse circumstances than was shown by the British troops during these mutinies. The memory of their constancy and daring will never die out in India, and the natives must feel that while Britain contains such sons the rule of the British Sovereign must last undisputed.

Soldiers, both English and native, I bid you all farewell; and I record as my latest word that the bravery and endurance of which I have spoken with admiration could not alone have ensured success. That success was owing in a great measure to your discipline, the foundation of all military virtue, which I trust will never be relaxed.

CLYDE, General, Commander-in-Chief.

There was a rumour that the Governor of the island of Bahrein had thrown off his allegiance to the Imam of Muscat and hoisted the Persian flag, at the same time dismissing every English agent from the island.

Sir Henry Ward has been appointed Governor of Madras.

CHINA.

A telegram from Shanghai, dated May 17, says:—"Great excitement prevails among the Chinese owing to the progress of the rebels. At Nankin the Imperialists have been forced to raise the siege, with the loss of their guns. Chusan has been placed in charge of the allied Commission. The French are settling at Chefoo, in the Gulf of Pecheli. The reported erection of extensive forts at Taku is confirmed."

At Canton trade is almost at a standstill. The insurgents have defeated the Imperial troops. Sir Hope Grant was to sail north on the 27th of May.

THE WRECK OF THE "MALABAR."—Lord Elgin and Baron Gros have proceeded on to China. Only ninety-two boxes of specie have been recovered from the wreck of the *Malabar*. The divers at Galle have also recovered a small quantity of luggage from the wreck, among which are cases containing her Majesty's autograph letter to the Emperor of China, Lord Elgin's credentials and instructions, and his orders of the Thistle and the Bath. The letter is legible, though much discoloured, while the credentials are in very fair preservation. Baron Gros has also recovered his "papers," which word must be construed literally, as the ink is all but obliterated. The autograph letter of the Emperor is a blank sheet. The luggage is utterly ruined by the salt water and bilge, the opium and oil, the coal-dust and the filth, wherein it has been submerged. The greatest dissatisfaction has prevailed among the passengers in consequence of the refusal of the agent of the Peninsular and Oriental Company at Galle to pay the hotel bills incurred during the fortnight. He grounds his refusal on the plea that the company is "not liable for detention and delay of passengers arising from accident or from extraordinary or unavoidable circumstance," a notice to that effect being endorsed on the passage-tickets. Lord Elgin, Baron Gros, and the Comte de Bastard have served the agent with separate protests.

M. DELAPORTE, the agent of the Orpheonists on the occasion of their late visit, complains that he was sent to prison last week by the proprietor of the Arundel Hotel, Arundel-street, Strand, because he did not pay with sufficient promptitude a bill of which he had never seen the particulars, and although he offered to discharge the claim the moment he was arrested. This bill was incurred on behalf of some of the Orpheonists, who certainly have much reason to complain of their treatment in England.

NAPLES AND SICILY.

On the 1st instant the new Neapolitan Ministers presented the following address to the King:—

Sire,—By the sovereign and memorable act of the 25th of June your Majesty announced two great ideas to your people—viz., that of putting the Constitutional regime in force in these States, and that of entering into an understanding with King Victor Emmanuel for the greater advantage of the two Italian crowns. These sublime words, which mark for your Majesty and for your reign the commencement of a great and glorious era, have resounded throughout Europe, and filled with joy the hearts of your subjects, who expect from the virtue and loyalty of their King the accomplishment of the grand work. Your Majesty has deigned at the same time to call the undersigned to power as your council of Ministers, in whom confidence is to be placed for the prompt execution of the Royal will, and who have been intrusted with the preparation of the statute for this portion of the kingdom. But your council, Sire, in devoting itself to the fulfilment of this Royal order, has considered that a Constitutional statute already exists in the public law of the kingdom—namely, that which was decreed by your august father, the late Ferdinand II. If this statute was after some time suspended on account of some deplorable events which it is not proper to recall to-day, it has nevertheless never been abrogated, as has been the case in some European States. It seems to the undersigned that it is at once a simple and logical idea that this statute should be restored in full vigour. In doing this your Majesty will find agreeable and facile the work of which you desire your Majesty to receive the benefit. The foreigner will admire the wisdom of the Sovereign in this noble decision, and your peoples, without having to wait for a new document, will learn with the greatest interest what are their franchises, and will receive with gratitude this new pledge of the King for the inauguration of the Constitutional régime.

On the same day the King issued decrees in consonance with the above advice of his Ministers—convoking the assembly of the national Parliament of Naples for the 10th of September, restoring also the laws of 1848 and 1849 with regard to the freedom of the press, and establishing commissions to arrange the details with respect to the electoral law, the National Guard, &c. The proclamation of the Constitution is said to have been received by the people with perfect indifference. The elections for the new popular representation (to meet in September) are to take place in August, and a committee—of which the two Liberal Princes of the Royal house, the Prince of Syracuse and the Count of Aquila, are members—has already been formed for the purpose of getting the electoral machinery ready. The Ministers are engaged in compelling the King to dismiss such noblemen and high functionaries as were supporters of the system now exploded; and the *Post* says, "Active negotiations appear to be decidedly going on between Naples and Turin on the subject of a common action of the two Courts in the affairs of Italy." The Neapolitan Government has dispatched a mission to Turin: it is composed of Signors Manna and Winspeare.

There is a report that Garibaldi has set himself in motion for attacking Messina. Advices from that town to the 8th instant state that Colonel Medici was at the village of Barcellona awaiting volunteers. He had reconnoitred the heights of Messina and Melazzo. The attack on Melazzo was fixed for the 10th instant. Assassinations took place at Messina on the night of the 7th.

Reliable news from Palermo of the 3rd describes a review held by Garibaldi over his 9000 volunteers. A commissary of the late police having been murdered near Palermo, the Dictator has threatened with exile and death whoever should take upon himself thus to execute justice in private, but has named a commission for investigating the antecedents of the police officers left in the island, and for punishing those that were guilty of outrages committed upon the people.

Four steamers purchased by Garibaldi in England, and which are to form the nucleus of his fleet, are daily expected at Genoa. At Palermo the church bells are being pulled down to be cast into cannon. Some will be left, but each church is to furnish at least one. The churches in Palermo are very numerous.

The *Washington*, the *Cagliari*, and the *Oregon*, on the 2nd, at night, embarked 3500 volunteers at Genoa, mostly young men, from all parts of North Italy, making up the third expedition bound for Sicily, under the orders of the Neapolitan Cosenz. They set out in the best order, and with admirable silence. Genoa poured out all her people, and accompanied them with loud cheers. These "evvivas" were not answered from the vessels, whence only occasional strains of national songs broke through the stillness of the air. On the 9th another band of volunteers, 1500 strong, embarked at Genoa; and another was to leave that port on the 10th.

The *Paris Presse* reports that General Türr has been obliged to resign his command in consequence of sickness.

SWITZERLAND AND SAVOY.

A letter from Berne informs us that the Minister of England to the Helvetic Confederation has declared to the President, in the name of Lord John Russell, that England has given in her adhesion to the proposal of a European Conference. The English Minister expressed on this occasion the firm intention of supporting the right of Switzerland to claim new guarantees for the maintenance of her neutrality.—Prince Metternich has declared to M. Thouvenel, in the name of the Austrian Government, that Austria intends to maintain that Piedmont can show no title to be admitted to the Conference.

According to a telegram from Paris the Conference will probably be postponed till October next, and that it will take place at Paris, the Powers having agreed to be represented by their ordinary Ambassadors at the Court of the Tuileries.

The Swiss Federal Council have appointed a Chargé d'Affaires at Turin.

PRESIDENT BUCHANAN AND THE COVODE COMMITTEE.

A LATE mail from America brought news of interest relating to the proceedings of the Covode Committee, appointed to inquire into certain charges against President Buchanan. Previous to the adjournment of Congress, the President sent in a message recapitulating the grounds of his protest of March last against the proceedings under the Committee, the charges against him being vague, and expressed in equivocal terms. He did not for a moment entertain a doubt as to the result. He did not believe it possible that there existed a man who could basely perjure himself. The proceedings of the House, he repeats, were "violative" of the rights of a co-ordinate branch of the Government, and such as, if enforced, would establish a dangerous precedent. The House had acted without constitutional warrant, and in a manner tending to degrade the Presidential office, and render it unworthy of acceptance by an honourable man. The accusatory resolution was nothing more or less than that the President had used corrupt means to accomplish certain purposes. By what authority did the House undertake to investigate the Executive's course as to the Lecompton Constitution—to pry into our foreign relations, assailing our Mexican Minister as to the Tehuantepec route—to investigate removals from office, notwithstanding the power of removal belongs to the President under the Constitution, and was so decided by the first Congress, and accordingly has ever since been so exercised? There was no authority for the Committee to investigate the subject of printing the post-office blanks, because that question had previously been examined by two other committees. The President speaks of the vindictive manner in which the witnesses were examined. The first information he received of any testimony that could injuriously affect him was published in a New York journal, but it was disproved by most respectable witnesses. The *Telegraph*, however, was silent as to the contradiction. He says that only such dispatches were published as could reflect on his character, thus inflicting most flagrant injustice, and that different versions were given of private conversations when there was no opportunity to refute them. Members of the Cabinet and others were summoned to discover, if possible, something to his credit. Disappointed applicants for office, becoming hostile to the Administration, appeared before the committee. These were most dangerous witnesses. The committee spread a dragnet over the whole Union to catch disappointed men willing to malign his character. The tyrannical Star Chamber was not worse than this. There had been nothing like it since the revolutionary days of

Robespierre. Should the proceedings of the committee be sanctioned by the House, the Constitution will have been violated, and the Executive be no longer an independent branch of the Government, and the worst fears of the early patriots and statesmen will have been realised. He reiterates the power under the impeachment clause, and that it was sought to convict him in the absence of all proof. In the name of the representatives of this great people, and standing on the ramparts of the Constitution which they ordained and established, he solemnly protests against these unconstitutional proceedings.

MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS IN SYRIA.

EVENTS are now occurring in Syria which must at once bring the Eastern question again before the world. The interference of the French is certain, and England must herself aid in repressing atrocities which surpass anything that has of late years been perpetrated, even by the animosity of race and religion: indeed, each Government has already sent two men-of-war to Beyrout to afford protection to the sufferers. The scene of these horrible tragedies is the range of the Lebanon and the numbers and audacity of the murderers are such that Damascus on the one side, and Beyrout on the other, are not safe. In the neighbourhood of Mount Hermon whole villages have been destroyed and their Christian inhabitants put to the sword. Catholics, Greeks, and the little communities of Protestants have shared the same fate. In some cases the butchery has been in cold blood; in others the villages have been surprised at night and every male slaughtered.

Here is a terrible story. It reaches us from Beyrout:—

As the Austrian steamer Trieste was leaving this on the 16th instant (June) a boatload of men, wearing not blood-stained but blood-saturated garments, arrived from Tyre. These individuals, only thirty-four in number, are all that remain of the Christian male population of Hasbeia, a village at the foot of Mount Hermon, which a week before could muster nearly two thousand fighting men. These poor creatures were the first to bring to Beyrout detailed and true accounts of the bloodthirsty ruffianism of their Druse enemies, and of the fearful treachery of the local Turkish authorities. The tale I give you is taken from the very words of the men themselves, examined separately by a first-rate Arabic scholar.

Hasbeia is a beautiful village at the foot of Hermon, and close to the source of the Jordan. It contains, or did before the massacre, a population of 5000 Christian souls, chiefly of the Greek "orthodox" Church. The Protestants numbered in this village upwards of two hundred. They had a native pastor and a regular church of their own. Of that Protestant community two men now live to tell the tale of their butchery; whilst of their 4000 Greek fellow-Christians but thirty-three men have survived, and the fate of their wives and childrens is worse than uncertain.

The village was attacked by an overwhelming body of Druses on Saturday, the 2nd of June. The Christians armed to repel them, and for two days held their own, on the 3rd driving back the enemy. Hitherto the Commander of the Turkish troops had stood aloof, although—as was the case at Sidon, at Deir-el-Kamar, and at Hasbeia—he had troops enough at his command to aid and defeat the Druses as he so wished. When he saw that the Christians were gaining the day he called them back, and in the name of the Sultan ordered them to retire within the seraglio (a large building covering nearly an acre of ground, and containing the residence of the Commander as well as the barracks), and to give up their arms, as he, the local representative of the Government, would conduct them all safe to Damascus, where they would be better than in Hasbeia whilst the civil war lasted. The Christians obeyed him, returned, gave up their arms, which were immediately packed up and sent towards Damascus, but with so absurdly small an escort that the Druses took possession of both the muskets and the mules that carried them within an hour of their leaving the place. The Christians asked again and again to be sent with their families, as promised, to Damascus. For nearly a week they were put off (during which time the Turkish soldiers had prevented any of them from leaving the precincts of the seraglio), two Druse sheiks of great influence arrived, and had a conference of several hours with the Turkish Commander of the troops. No sooner was this conference ended than the Christians observed that the harems (wives, women, and children), as well as the property of the Commander, was removed from the seraglio, and that the Turkish soldiers also removed their baggage outside. Suspecting treachery, many of the Christians tried to escape from the place, but were prevented by the bayonets of the troops, whilst their women and children were ordered and compelled to remove to the large upper chambers of the buildings, the men being forced to remain below. By this time it was known that many hundreds of armed Druses were close to the town. The troops had hardly made the aforesaid arrangements when the Druses were admitted into the seraglio, and rushed like hungry tigers upon the unarmed mob in the courtyard. No man was spared. In ten minutes the very stones were inch deep in human blood. No butchery ever known in history equalled this in ferocity and cowardice. In half an hour upwards of a thousand strong men were hacked to death. Some few tried again to escape, but were driven back by the bayonets of the Turkish soldiers (regular troops, not *Bashi Bazouks*), and the Druses had their revel of blood undisturbed; mothers, wives, daughters, and young children witnessing from above the massacre of their relatives. I could enter into more details, but sickened at the task. Would to heaven that it were a fable or a dream! In the slaughter some few hid in out-of-the-way chambers; others escaped notice from being heaped over by the dead, and these by God's mercy managed in the night to escape, wandered down to the coast, where one Ali Bey, a Metuali chief, protected them, and so to Tyre, where they took ship to Beyrout, and arrived here on Saturday evening, the 16th inst. Of the fate of the women and children nothing is yet certain, but from what is known of Turkish soldiers it is feared that the fate of the former will be one worse than death. Of the Protestant community not a man escaped, but more than one of the Greek Christian refugees bears witness how they met their fate, exhorting others to turn to the Saviour and to pray to Him in their last hour.

This is bad enough, but it is not the worst. Zahleh, a large Christian town of 10,000 inhabitants, has fallen into the hands of immense hordes of Druses, with Kurds and Arabs from the desert, who had invested the town for six days. We are told that the Christians fought bravely, but were at length overpowered by numbers, and that then the slaughter was frightful. The correspondent from whose letter we quote above says that of the Turkish troops sent to assist the Christians of Zahleh "half halted some miles short of the place, and the remainder took part against them. But full details are not known yet." But this was known, that there was nothing to prevent the victorious hordes making an attempt upon Damascus; and if they do so, and succeed, we may look for still greater butcheries than we have now to record. And a late telegram informs us that Damascus is already surrounded by the butchers. There was a general panic at Beyrout, and the Christian inhabitants were taking to flight. The French Consul is said to have been wounded by a yataghan.

Besides Hasbeia and Zahleh, 100 Christian villages are said to have been destroyed.

THE IRISH BRIGADE IN ROME.

THE *Nation* of Saturday publishes a letter from Rome giving a characteristic account of an affray which took place in the Eternal City on the 27th of June between the Papal troops and a portion of the Irish Brigade enlisted for the purpose of maintaining the Pope's authority against all his enemies. Subjoined is the more material portion of the *Nation's* version of the Royal row:—

We had a row on Wednesday evening which has been the great topic in Rome during the last two days. A young man named Luffan, very respectable and nicely educated, but with not very much discretion, not being satisfied with the position of "full private" (being like a number of those who seem to have expected officers' commissions to be as plentiful as berries), put off his uniform and turned out in plain clothes. The officer in command (Mr. Howley) ordered him to put on his uniform. He refused. Lieutenant Howley ordered him to be arrested, and called on a sergeant named Wiseman to arrest him. The latter, who was close by, and seems to have had some partiality for Luffan, instead of obeying the order, hailed some men at hand to assist in resisting his execution. Others of the battalion, however, most properly with alacrity turned out to arrest the insubordinates. These ran off and took refuge in the Irish College. Some French officers, not aware of the rights of refuge, wanted to enter and arrest the men. The college authorities refused to permit this, and the time borrowed thus in representations, &c., allowed the temper of all the parties to cool, and Luffan and Wiseman heartily to repent of their conduct as an offence not merely against military discipline but against the credit of their native country. So they one and all gave themselves up quietly that evening.

Meantime the barracks where the Battalion of St. Patrick was stationed was the scene of the greatest tumult on hearing that some of the men had acted in such a manner as I have described—some saying this, some saying that—some furiously calling for prompt chastisement on those few who had, as they asserted, brought disgrace on the brigade and Ireland and given a

handle to their enemies; others, on the other hand, palliating the conduct of the malcontents, and censuring the great strictness of discipline ordered by General Lamoricière. The Irish crowded in groups, excitedly discussing the whole affair—the crowd being swelled by Swiss and French idlers, all waiting to see the upshot of affairs; and at the cross-roads, as well as at the Palazzo Aldobrandini, there were crowds of Romans looking on in amazement at what all the noise was about.

By singular and most fortunate chance that very evening, by the train from Civita Vecchia, who should arrive that the Major of the Irish Battalion, Mr. Miles W. O'Reilly, of Knockabey Castle. He barely reached the hotel from the terminus when he heard that was going on, and off he hurried to the barracks. He came up at the moment while the Irish were all gathered together outside the barracks, about to enter it. He instantly ordered the men to fall in and put them through their drill, and made them a brief but beautiful address. You never saw any change so sudden and complete. The men became as docile and contented as possible, and everything wore a most cheering appearance, when a deplorable incident changed the aspect of affairs. At the end of the file next the barrack entrance there was a stout, athletic Irishman. I forgot to tell you there is one division of Belgians and Romans in the same barracks as our men. The Belgian officer in command had, at the very first outbreak of the row, drawn up his men under arms in front of the barracks. This gave great offence to the Irish, who felt indignant at being, as they thought, guarded over by Belgians, and the man I have alluded to kept saying, with bitter excitement, to his comrade, "Look at these fellows! They would sell the Pope and join Garibaldi in the morning, and look at them with their bayonets like sentries to terrify us!" The thing seemed to sting bitterly, and the moment Major O'Reilly gave the order to right about face, this private passionately dashed at the nearest of the Belgians or Romans, and with one blow of his fist between the eyes laid the poor fellow sprawling and kicking in the dust, to the utter amazement and horror of every one. The Belgian officer, with sad lack of discretion, instantly gave the words, "Prime and load—make ready—present—fire!" O'Reilly rushed forward, and putting himself between the muzzles of the guns and the position of the Irish, in a voice of thunder countermanded the rash and terrible order. It was a moment of painful excitement. At O'Reilly's voice of thunder—though, having so recently arrived, he was personally unknown—the Belgians held the loaded guns, but pulled no trigger. Then O'Reilly ordered his men once more into line; but by this time out poured every Irishman in the barracks, and a strange scene ensued. Though utterly unarmed, they rushed at the armed Belgians, and a regular hand-to-hand conflict ensued—the Irish, however, merely desiring to disarm the others, wrestling away the guns, twisting the bayonets off like wigs, and tossing them in the air by dozens. The Belgian officer drew his sword and made a stroke at an Irishman, which, however, wounded him but very slightly. This was the first actual blow struck. On this another Irishman flung a stone at the officer, which missed him, but hit one of his men. These, notwithstanding the serious nature of the whole affair, proved to be the only blows given throughout. O'Reilly's tact, energy, and presence of mind were above all praise. He soon, assisted by his officers, succeeded in bringing the men to their obedience; and in a few minutes had order once more restored, and by nine o'clock everything was as orderly as if nothing had occurred.

IRELAND.

PARTY RIOTS.—The Protestants of Armagh foolishly determined to celebrate the Battle of Boynewater on Monday. They met with music, lighted a bonfire at night, and marched about the town afterwards. Thus provoked, of course the Roman Catholics were not behindhand. But they proceeded to break the law, and to injure the property of Protestants. A fight ensued, and several persons were injured before the police could quell the riot.

A LUCKY ESCAPE.—According to the *Freeman's Journal* the diabolical attempt at assassination has been frustrated at Tarbert. About three weeks ago a little box was directed to Colonel Patterson, Tarbert House, and on the direction card an intimation that a letter would be found inside which would explain all. The Colonel, struck with the singularity of the affair, determined, for the present, not to open the mysterious consignment. Accordingly it was locked up in a room, and continued there for three weeks without any information being received respecting it. Eventually, however, having placed it a distance of 100 yards or more, he fired a pistol at the lid, when bang went the box with a loud report, shattering into pieces a large stone against which it was placed. The "little present" was an infernal machine.

SCOTLAND.

DREADFUL RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—A terrible accident occurred on Sunday last on the Edinburgh, Perth, and Dundee line of railway. An engine and tender left Granton about five o'clock, and was proceeding rapidly along the line, which at that point runs close to the sea on a high embankment, when they went off the rails at a point a little to the westward of Wardie Hotel, and dashed over the embankment into the sea, a distance of about thirty feet, carrying with them the railing of a bridge which at that point crosses the road, and a portion of the low parapet wall skirting the line. It was found that Matheson, the engine-driver, his son, his brother-in-law, and Morgan, the pointsman, had been all killed on the spot, their bodies being very much mutilated. Bolan, the stoker, who jumped off immediately before the engine went over the embankment, escaped with a dislocated shoulder. Dall, the porter, had a marvellous escape with his life. He was carried over the embankment, and fell down the stone wall close to the sea, it being nearly high water at the time, and was much bruised and scalded about the face by the steam from the engine; he was, however, able to walk home. The stoker was conveyed to the Royal Infirmary, where he is doing well. Several persons who happened at the time to be sitting on the stone bulwarks beneath the railway on the north side were likewise injured.

THE PROVINCES.

INAUGURATION OF BANBURY CROSS.—The Banbury people have set up a new cross, and last week the Foresters' Court of the district rode in parade to inaugurate it. Everybody has heard the famed nursery rhyme, "Ride a cockhorse to Banbury Cross." The legend commemorated by that old ditty, was realised. A lady did ride a white horse to the Cross, and she "had rings on her fingers and bells on her toes," and formed a sufficiently striking portion of the cavalcade, which included among its elements the not less striking figures of Robin Hood, Friar Tuck, and other characters of our ballad literature.

THE MYSTERIOUS MURDER AT FROME.—The murderer of Mr. Kent's child is still undiscovered. The housemaid, nursemaid, and cook of the household, and a gardener and washerwoman accustomed to work for Mr. Kent, have been closely examined (for it is almost certain that somebody well acquainted with house must have committed the murder), but no evidence to fix suspicion on any one has yet appeared.

RIOTOUS PAPER-DUTY REPEAL MEETING.—On Monday evening a meeting was held in front of St. George's Hall, Liverpool, to protest against the continuance of the paper duty, to elect a deputation to the Constitutional Defence Association, and to petition the House of Commons to take prompt measures to repeal the excise duty on paper this session. The meeting was of a most turbulent character, and towards the close of it Mr. Heyworth, the chairman, was thrown from his seat, dislocating one of his fingers.

THE LIVERPOOL POISONING CASES.—On Monday Thomas Winslow, who is accused of having murdered Mrs. James by poison, was brought up on remand before the magistrate. The prosecuting solicitor applied for a further adjournment of the case. He said the bodies of Mrs. Townsend and her two sons had been exhumed, and poison had been found in each of them. Under these circumstances it became necessary to have the assistance of the best analysts of the day, and he believed it would take somewhat near a fortnight to make such analysis. The prisoner was further remanded for seven days.

SHOCKING MURDER.—A brutal murder has been committed at Barnard Castle. The murderer, a sawyer, named Dixon, resided in Gaigate, with his niece and a woman named Mary Ann Wilson, who passed as his wife. On Saturday Dixon and Wilson had been drinking together, and wandered about the town and neighbourhood nearly all the night in a state of intoxication. On their return home the woman and the niece quarrelled as to who should do the household work. Dixon having gone out and returned again in the afternoon, and finding the women still quarrelling, said that he would soon settle their disputes, and seized a poker and struck Wilson a fearful blow with it on the head, after which he kicked her with his strong navy's boots on the face and body. The niece ran out to alarm the neighbours, who found the woman quite dead. The murderer has not yet been apprehended.

MANCHESTER AND THE PRECEDENTS QUESTION.—At a recent meeting of the executive committee of the Manchester Constitutional Defence Committee the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—"That, in the opinion of this committee, no Government is worthy of the confidence of the Liberal party of this country which is not prepared to resist, by action as well as words, the recent aggression of the House of Lords, and to take such a vote as shall lead to the immediate reversal of their unconstitutional vote on the Paper Duties Repeal Bill; and that no Liberal member of Parliament who is not prepared to support such a course can hope to retain the confidence of his constituents. That the best thanks of this committee are due, and are hereby tendered, to the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Chancellor of the Exchequer, for his able and manly defence of the rights and privileges of the House of Commons during the debate on the resolutions introduced by Lord Palmerston on tax bills and the question of privilege."

FUAD PACHA.

We are enabled this week to give a Portrait of Fuad Pacha, one of the most remarkable members of the present Government of Turkey. He has just left Constantinople for Syria as the Imperial Commissioner, the Turkish reinforcements having been for some time landing there in considerable numbers for the purpose of revenging the sanguinary scenes which have been enacted by the bloodthirsty Druses on the Lebanon. It would, perhaps, have been impossible to have selected a man better adapted to the critical position he will have to occupy in Syria, since Fuad Pacha, although a Turk, possesses, both from education and personal attachment, the manners and sympathies of a European. At present—while the recent massacres at Zaleh and the adjacent villages have become but too certain in their horrible details, when from 800 to 1200 Christians, whose bodies are being discovered in wells, caves, and cisterns, are already immolated by the fanaticism of Druses and Mussulmen—the post which Fuad Pacha has undertaken may well be considered both difficult and dangerous. His antecedents, however, give us ample promise that he will display a sagacity commensurate with the occasion. He has already filled the office of Minister of Foreign Affairs, and was, indeed, appointed to represent the Sultan in the Conference at Paris which excited the attention of all Europe some two years since. It will be remembered that on that occasion he displayed a very remarkable acquaintance with European politics. Fuad Pacha is of a very noble family, and his appearance would indicate the nobility of the race from

which he sprung, while his whole manner is characterised by that dignity and suavity which properly belong to a man of education and refinement. His capabilities as a statesman may be exemplified by the amicable relations he continued to sustain with other Powers during his administration of the foreign policy of Turkey; and it is equally remarkable that he should have displayed sufficient address to escape the almost inevitable results of those plots and conspiracies which are so constantly hatched against the Turkish Minister, who is either more able or more powerful than his contemporaries.

The importance of the recent atrocities in Syria may be estimated from the particulars which have just reached us. Within seven or eight leagues of the gates of Saida nearly fifty villages have been burnt, the flocks driven off, the fields laid waste, and some of the inhabitants massacred, while those who escaped, hoping to find a asylum in the city, were murdered as they crossed the surrounding gardens, or struggled towards the gates. The very dead bodies were hacked and cudgelled with daggers and bludgeons, and it became dangerous even to display sufficient charity to bury the victims; so that the corpses remained where they had fallen, to pollute the air or to be devoured by dogs. It is to be hoped, however, that the present position of affairs may prevent any repetition of such ferocity as has so lately made an unarmed and defenceless people—men, women, and children—victims of a sanguinary fanaticism, which can be checked only by those vigorous measures which Fuad Pacha is likely to institute.

CATANIA.

PUBLIC attention has already been directed to Catania as the next place in which Garibaldi is likely to concentrate operations. It is already reported that a large force has marched thither, probably in consequence of intrigues which have been going on against the Provisional Government. It was here that the Neapolitan soldiers fired upon the peaceable citizens who walked out after the engagement, while the officers gave directions for burning and sacking the houses. On every house there has been written, "Vogliamo l'annessione al regno costituzionale di Vittorio Emanuele," and there prevails a universal determination to resist any league with the Bourbon rulers.

As the city of Catania is one of the most important, and perhaps the most beautiful, of the Sicilian capitals, we have this week given our readers the general View as it is approached from the harbour, with Etna lying in the background. Supposed to have been founded by the Phœnicians, and occupied by the Romans, who called it Catana, the city of Catania has always been celebrated for the regularity and magnificence of its edifices; and although it has again and again been partially destroyed, either by earthquakes or by the lava of its burning mountain, it has arisen time after time with perhaps equal splendour. The ruins of an amphitheatre even more stupendous than that of Rome itself may even now be seen; while the remains of the theatre, the aqueduct, the hippodrome, and several temples, attest the ancient importance of the place. The whole town was nearly destroyed by an earthquake in 1693. It suffered again from a similar calamity in 1783, once more in 1818,



PORTRAIT OF FUAD PACHA, THE NEWLY-APPOINTED IMPERIAL COMMISSIONER IN SYRIA.

and even so late as 1846 an earthquake shattered many of the houses. Added to this, it has been subject to the repeated eruptions of Mount Etna. Hughes says:—"It is nobly situated on the roots of Etna, its despoiler and its benefactor. Overwhelmed as it has often been by torrents of liquid fire, it has risen, like the phoenix, more splendid from its ashes. The very substance which once ravaged its plains has by its own decomposition covered them with soil fertile as the fabled garden of the Hesperides; and on all sides the material of destruction is turned to the purpose of ornament and utility. The streets are paved with lava; houses, palaces, and churches are built of lava; of lava they form ornamental chimney-pieces, tables, and a variety of toys; whilst a natural mole of lava defends the shipping from the fury of the tempest. The plan of the city is superb, and no one is permitted to deviate from it." This encomium is well merited, since the streets of Catania are broad and long; while the public squares are both spacious and imposing. The "Square of the Elephant," so called from an antique statue of an elephant bearing an obelisk, is especially fine; and the public buildings have most of them an air of magnificence far greater than in the other Sicilian towns. The Palace of the Senate is, perhaps, the purest in point of style; but the Cathedral, founded by Count Roger, in 1094, and rebuilt after the earthquake of 1693, is a fine building. —There are, altogether, about forty-nine churches, nineteen monasteries, and eleven convents—the most sumptuous being the Benedictine monastery of St. Nicholas. Possessing as they do a gulf which forms a dentation on the coast of about ten miles, the Catanians have ample opportunity for the prosecution of their trade, which includes all the material productions of their beautiful climate, such as wheat, potatoes, olives, grapes, figs, wine, oil, manna, silk, and soda, as well as the manufactures, which are principally articles formed of coral, agate, and

lava; silk goods, which form the staple manufacture of the town, and amber, found on the banks of the Giaretta, in the preparation of which some thousands of persons are engaged. Catania possesses several hospitals, a handsome theatre, some public libraries, and an extensive university, founded by Alphonso of Arragon in 1445. Another advantage is derived from the vicinity of Mount Etna, of which the inhabitants have largely availed themselves: it consists of the snow from the mountain, which forms a very considerable article of commerce, and even of export.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE show of the Royal Agricultural Society has been held this year at Canterbury. The city was filled with strangers, who had to pay dearly for their accommodation; and the show proved very successful, although not on so great a scale as that of last year. There were 202 exhibitors of farming implements; last year there were 246. Then, as to animals, we had 155 shorthorns, against 231 last year; 44 Herefords, against 94 last year; 40 Devons, instead of 68; 63 other breeds, an increase of 18; and 26 extra; altogether, 388 entries, against 438 last year. The foremost animal was Colonel Townsley's famous short-horn Royal Butterfly, for which the owner has refused 2000 guineas. The second prize bull was shown by a tenant-farmer, Mr. Dickenson, of Upholland, near Wigan. This bull was the closest competitor Royal Butterfly met with during last year's shows.

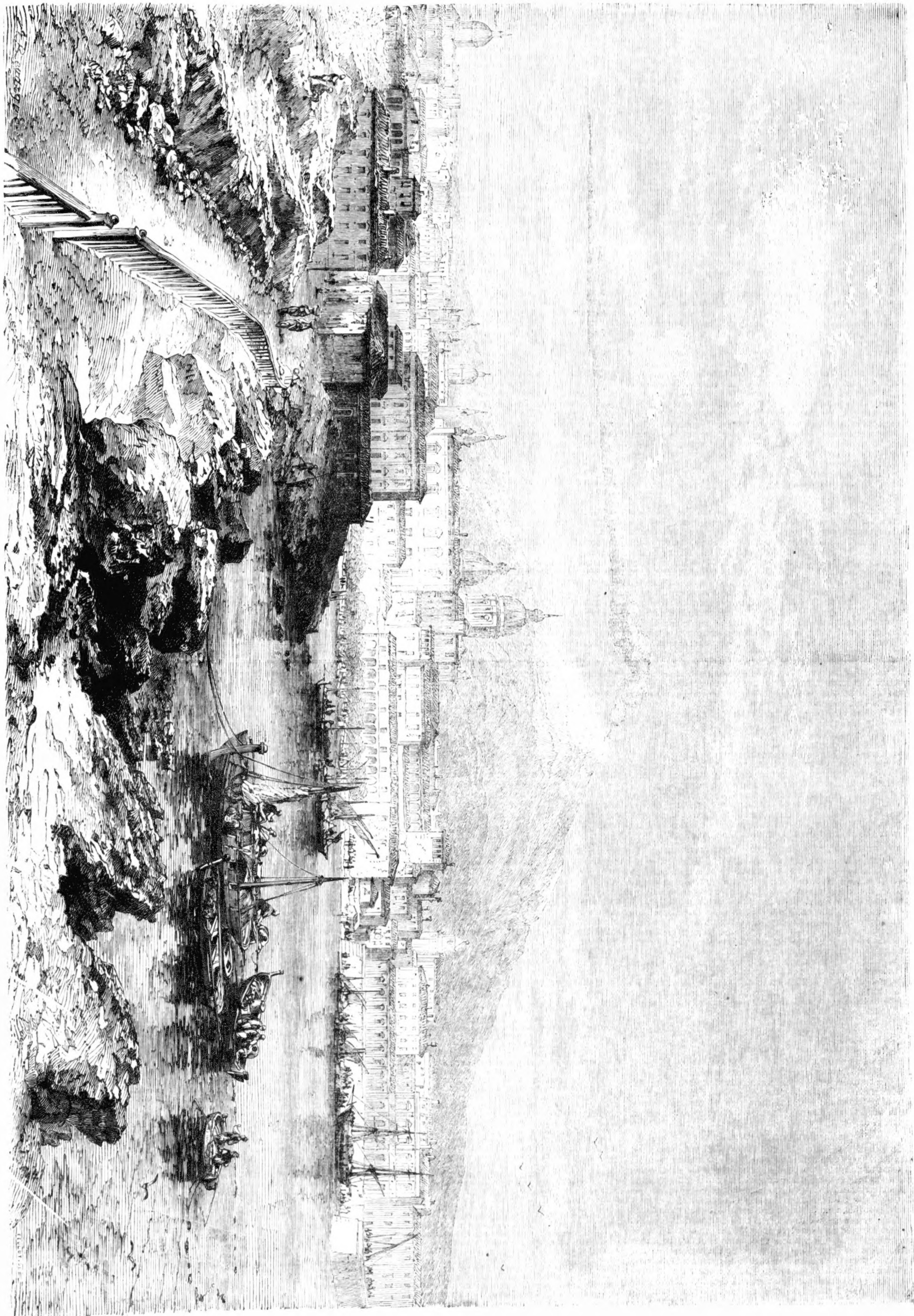
Of sheep there were 441, against 421 last year. It was a very large and splendid show of all varieties and in every class. Mr. Sanday swept off all the prizes for Leicesters, except two. In Southdowns Mr. Jonas Webb was equally fortunate.

The pigs were classified into four divisions—the large breed of every colour, the small white, small black, and pigs not eligible for these classes—a very improved arrangement for enabling animals to compete with their true rivals. The numbers amounted to 188, against 216 last year. All the classes were particularly good.

Thanks to the local committee, there was a show of Kentish wool and long and short wool fleeces of all kinds—an important department, seeing that the woollen trade is the second of our great industries, and works up, every year, £20,000,000 worth of home and foreign wool. Of 86,000,000lb. weight imported more than two-thirds come from our own colonies, while at home we raise 280,000,000lb. of wool from 50,000,000 of sheep—a larger quantity than any other country in the world produces; yet our sheep are bred for their mutton rather than their fleece.

CHATEAUBRIAND'S SISTERS.—The following curious paragraph appears in a Brittany journal, *La Foi Bretonne*:—"A most respectable person, whose firm step and noble, vivacious, and handsome physiognomy would easily enable her to conceal her real age, does not shrink from reminding her friends that she enters her hundredth year on July 4. She is the sister of our illustrious Chateaubriand, the Countess de Marigny, who, it is well known, lives at Dinan, the convent of the Sisters of Wisdom."

AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN.—The following "communicated note" is published in the *Moniteur de l'Armée*:—"After the campaign of Italy an anonymous letter was received by the Minister of War against an officer who was accused of not having done his duty during the battle of Solferino, where he fell into the power of the enemy. An inquiry took place, and another officer was proved to have written this cowardly denunciation, for the purpose of securing to himself a favour which he feared might be disputed by his comrade. He has been definitively excluded from the ranks of the army for this dishonourable conduct."



VIEW OF CATANIA.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 138.— PRIVILEGE.

We have had two great nights in the House of Commons, for the debate on the privilege question was, we think, the best debate that we have heard for many years. Most of our leading speakers took part therein, and it was kept up with unflagging interest from the beginning to the end. It was announced to commence at a quarter past four o'clock on Thursday. On Thursday nights "orders of the day" take precedence of notices of motions, but "privilege" questions may be brought on at any time, and therefore, though this was a notice of motion and not an "order," it had precedence of the orders. Such was the interest excited by this question that when Mr. Speaker marched into the House it was nearly full of members, while in the outer lobby there was quite a crowd of strangers waiting to get into the galleries, and when it was announced by the doorkeeper that "Mr. Speaker was in the chair" the stairs to the galleries were taken by storm, and within a quarter of an hour every place was taken. Below the bar we noticed, amongst others, Lord Derby, Lord Stanley of Alderley, the Duke of Argyll, Lord Granville, and Lord Montague, the proximate cause of all the mischief. In the Ambassadors' Gallery above there was a long line of the diplomatic corps, in which shone conspicuous, as usual, Mr. Dallas, the representative of the United States. Mr. Dallas is now a constant attendant at the House when any important debate is on, and his son and secretary is mostly by his side. Dallas the elder, in face, figure and dress, is a type of the old Puritans of New England. The younger, we should judge from his appearance, is of the Young American school. There was also in the Peers' Gallery a foreign prince, Prince Lichenstein, and, as he had Royal blood in his veins, he was allowed to sit in the front row, which is usually reserved exclusively for members of our Upper House. In the back seats of the same department we noticed a son of Lord John Russell, and once or twice during the proceedings his Lordship paid his son a visit, no doubt to tell him the names of the speakers and to explain the proceedings. Mr. Gladstone's son was also present. Nor on this great occasion, when the dispute between the first and second and the third Estates of the realm was to be settled, was the fourth unrepresented; for Delane, of the *Times*, was there, and "Jacob Omnium," and others whom we will not name lest we should betray secrets. And here, perhaps, we may be called to account by our readers for hinting that there is a dispute between the three Estates of the realm. "Three Estates!" they will say; "why it is only between the Lords and the Commons that there is a dispute, her Majesty, the first Estate, has nothing to do with it." Well, then, let us once for all inform our readers that the Sovereign is not an Estate of the realm. The three Estates are, "the Lords spiritual, the Lords temporal, and the Commons." It is true that Lord Palmerston in his speech spoke of the Queen as the first Estate; but his Lordship, with all deference to him, made a blunder.

LORD PALMERSTON'S SPEECH.

Lord Palmerston rose about half-past four o'clock. The House was then somewhat in confusion, as it is generally at that hour; but in a moment every wandering member rushed to his place; the buzz of conversation ceased, and the House became as silent and orderly as the congregation of a village church. And no wonder. For up to that moment, and for some time afterwards, not a soul in the House, except it might be the members of the Cabinet, knew what line Lord Palmerston would take. The resolutions, it is true, were before the House, and had been for some days, but nobody knew exactly what they portended. Like the Delphic oracle, they were so ambiguous in their language that they might be made to mean anything or nothing, peace or war, conciliation or defiance. The Conservatives hoped they meant the former, and hence they had after much consideration determined to offer no opposition; whilst the extreme Liberals hoped that they meant the latter. Indeed, the Radicals were to the last assured by those "who ought to know" that, if they would but be quiet, they would find that every thing would come right at last. No wonder, then, that when Lord Palmerston rose every member in the House was in a moment profoundly attentive, eager to catch every word that was said, and watching like a sentinel "all eye, all ear, all expectation." And for a time this dubious state of affairs continued; but it was only for a time, for though the speech of the noble Lord was most cleverly conceived, and though with great ingenuity and adroitness he managed very gradually to unmask his design, the unmasking came at last, and the Radicals discovered that they had been sold. There was to be no war, no defiance, no "action." These resolutions were to be placed upon the journals: this and nothing more. "The Lords had clearly taken an unusual, if not an unprecedented, course, but they did not mean any harm; they thought they were doing service to the country; the state of the finances excused, if it did not justify them. The House of Commons had by its conduct encouraged them. It would be unwise to enter into a scolding match with the other House; the resolutions would sufficiently meet the case."

EFFECT UPON THE HOUSE.—THE CONSERVATIVES.

Whilst the noble Lord was with marvellous ingenuity unrolling his scroll, we were in a position to see every member in the House, and as we glanced from face to face we could not be otherwise than deeply interested in the varied emotions which the countenances of the honourable members displayed. The Treasury bench was full, but the person who most attracted our notice there was the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He sat on the very edge of his seat with his legs stretched out at full length, his head thrown back upon the back of the bench, his arms across his breast, and his hat resolutely pulled over his eyes; but, though his face was thrown deeply into the shade, it was easy to see that beneath that solemn and rigid countenance there were no pleasant feelings at work. Disraeli, as usual, sat just opposite the Chancellor, and he, too, as is his wont, had his arms folded, and his eyes fixed upon the floor; but as the noble Lord developed his meaning the generally undemonstrative features of the ex-Chancellor relaxed into a smile. Whiteside is Irish all over, and of course did not attempt to conceal his delight. His face, as he sat with his head stretched forward, as Dan O'Connell used to sit, was radiant with pleasure and fun, and when a cheer broke out he "gave tongue" with the wildest of the cheerers. Nor was Spooner, who sat just behind, much less demonstrative. But we must not attempt to particularise further. Suffice it to say that the stolid features of Big Bentinck were as suddenly lighted up as the face of a turnip lantern is when a candle is placed behind it; that even the solemn face of Newdegate widened; and that, in short, all the mass of countenances on the Conservative side of the House were radiant with delight. The cheering of the Conservatives was uproarious. They cheered as only country gentlemen can cheer.

THE GOVERNMENT SIDE.

The other side of the House presented a very different appearance. Behind the Treasury bench sat the Whigs. They, we venture to think, were not much less pleased than the Conservatives at the turn which the question was taking, though they showed but little feeling. The Whigs, as a class, are not very demonstrative; and, besides, on this question they know that the Liberal party is divided, and thought instinctively, probably, that it would not be wise to show too much feeling lest the breach should be widened; and, further, it is likely that they were annoyed and vexed to hear the leader of the Liberal Parliament greeted with such applause from their foes. Perhaps they remembered '57, when Palmerston used to court the approbation and support of the Conservatives more than that of his professed followers, and what it led to at last. Amongst the Radicals below the gangway there was nothing but surprise, indignation, and disgust. It was clear that they felt that they had been deserted and sold. When Lord Palmerston sat down many of them, whilst the Conservative cheers were ringing through the House, rushed out to report progress to their adherents, and for a time there was great excitement there; but this we must leave.

OUR OPINION.

Our opinion of Lord Palmerston's speech is that in structure it was a very able one, but that, also, it was a very unwise one, wretchedly deficient in fact and policy, and likely to lead at no distant day to very

disastrous results to his Government. Entertaining the views which he does, Lord Palmerston could not be expected to declare war against the Lords by moving any very strong and pointed resolutions; but if he had been wise he would never have defended the course which they have taken, and much less would he have insulted, and wounded, and evoked triumphant applause over, his Chancellor. The resolutions themselves are perhaps as strong as we could have expected them to be under the circumstances. If they do not recommend action they lay down a great principle, and show that action can be taken; and if Lord Palmerston had kept strictly to the text of his resolutions, though he would not have satisfied the extreme section of his party, he would not have disgusted and annoyed them. There was "ample room and verge enough" for him to have denounced the conduct of the Lords as a serious innovation, and yet to have recommended that his followers should be satisfied with a protest, and not proceed to attempt a retaliation which in all probability, in the present state of parties, would not be successful if attempted. But Lord Palmerston is not, and never was, a wise leader. In 1857-8 he disgusted and alienated his followers, and with what result we know; and he is now pursuing the same course, and we venture to think that it will lead to the same result. Not content with running his head against a wall, he builds walls to run his head against.

MR. COLLIER.

When Lord Palmerston sat down Mr. Collier rose, and many of the members left the House. But this was a great mistake; for in truth Mr. Collier delivered the greatest speech in the debate. It was not so effective at the time as many of the other speeches. The reason of this is there were no attempts at oratory in it, no declamation, no appeals to the passions; but for sterling matter, close reasoning, and critical acumen, it was by far the best speech of the debate, and will, we have no doubt, be oftener referred to and quoted in future time than any other. Mr. Collier will never be what we call here an effective speaker, by which we mean one who can lash the House into a storm of applause. He has great abilities, as this speech amply proves. He has plenty of words at command and a good voice, and he is by no means awkward in his action; but he is cold and unimpassioned—does not feel deeply himself, and therefore, of course, cannot make others feel. And, moreover, like all lawyers, his arguments are too wire-drawn for a popular assembly. In a court of equity, with Judges for his hearers, we should employ Mr. Collier; but we should hardly venture to retain him to address a jury. Nevertheless, as we have said, his speech on this question was very able; and we have no hesitation in saying that we learned more from it than we did from all the others together.

WHAT WILL GLADSTONE DO?

"What will Gladstone do?" was a question asked of a member of Parliament on Thursday week. "Oh," was the reply, "you may rely upon it that he will speak out, for he is not the man to be muzzled when he feels strongly;" and the answer was correct, as was very soon proved; for, soon after dinner, just as the members were hurrying back in the expectation of hearing him speak, he sprang on to his feet, and, by a few electric sentences which called forth cheers from the Liberal party that made the House ring again, showed that he was not to be "muzzled." The speech of the Chancellor stood out in bold contrast to that of the Premier. Lord Palmerston spoke like a wily politician who was more anxious to save his place than to defend the right; but Gladstone broke through all political considerations, as the giant Samson snapped the green withers. It was refreshing and exhilarating to feel that at last we had a statesman on his legs who was speaking from his heart, and it was evident that all the members on the Liberal side of the House felt it to be so. When the Chancellor denounced the conduct of the Lords as "the most gigantic and dangerous invasion of the rights of the Commons which has occurred in modern times," the enthusiasm rose to a height which it does not often reach even in the House of Commons; but when, further on, he declared that he reserved to himself "an entire freedom to adopt any mode of vindicating the rights of the Commons which may have the smallest chance of success," the cheering was, if possible, more enthusiastic and prolonged. The coldest of the Whigs caught the infection and cheered as loudly as the Radicals below the bar. When the Chancellor sat down there were whisperings in every direction, and it was the general opinion that he could not after such a display, so opposed to the policy of the Premier, stop in the Ministry; but our opinion is that he will not go out yet. He has not yet passed his financial measures. When they shall be all finished up it is more than probable that he will deem his mission fulfilled for a time, and retire to his old seat far away from the Ministerial bench.

Our space is exhausted. We must leave, therefore, the speeches of Bright and Disraeli without remark, otherwise than to observe that Disraeli was all himself again, and that Bright's speech would have been one of his greatest if he had not been hampered by a severe hoarseness. We must, however, give a line or two to

MR. STANSFELD.

for the honourable member made a great step in advance on Thursday night. It was foretold in these columns some time ago that he would become a power in the House, and the prophecy is fulfilled. Mr. Stansfeld has now won his spurs; for did he not exact applause from Disraeli, and, when the great Caucasian proceeded to attack him, parry his lance and compel this noted combatant to retire? And, further, has he not seen his speech honoured in the *Times* with leading type? Mr. Stansfeld is a young man, but he must be a practised speaker; for mark how cool and collected he is, how well arranged is his matter, how modest and yet how appropriate is his action, and how calmly and forcibly he reasons. Mr. Stansfeld evidently has strong faith; he is not a special pleader speaking from his brief; but he believes, and therefore he speaks, and hence, in some measure, his success. When thoughts do breathe the words will burn. It is refreshing to find that there is at least one "rising young man" in the House.

THE CENSOR AMONG THE FEUILLETONS.—The French Minister of the Interior has addressed the following circular to the Prefets:—"Monsieur le Prefet,—It is not only for the maintenance of order that the administration has received special powers from the law respecting the press; it is for the defence of public morality as well. The feuilleton romance, which in the lower columns of a journal offends against respectable sentiments, does as much and possibly more harm than the political exhortations which in the upper columns may tend to agitate men's minds. This facile literature, looking for its success alone to the imprudence of its pictures, the immorality of its intrigues, the strange perversity of its heroes, has in our day reached a deplorable and dangerous state of development. Invading nearly all periodical publications, taking advantage of their periodicity to keep the public curiosity in suspense from day to day, and incessantly eager, it spreads forth in profusion the inexhaustible fancies of the most ill-regulated imagination. The serious journals have permitted themselves to give it an asylum; it penetrates with them the privacy of the domestic hearth, and, once thus admitted into the family, neither youth nor innocence are secure from its contagion. But this is not all. By the side of the political sheets lending it their publicity in exchange for the subscriptions which they fancy they shall get or keep by it, we have seen rise up a crowd of small publications entirely devoted to the diffusion of this unwholesome literature, and sold every week at a low price, and by the hundred thousand copies, to greedy readers. To any one who still retains any respect for decency and good taste such an inundation is deplorable. It is more than time to put a stop to it. The intellect of the people has a right to better nourishment, and we ought no more to allow hearts to be corrupted than we allow minds to be perverted. I beg, then, to call your most vigilant attention to this point. Against the political sheets the decree of 1832, against the others the law respecting the distribution and colportage of printed matter furnish every means of effectual repression. Besides, for journals which have any sense of self-respect and of their obligations towards public morality, the advice you will give them will be sufficient, I am sure. As to those—if there are any—who, through love of an easy source of profit, or inability to raise their tone, shall persist in such publications, use towards them the utmost rigour of the law; and, bearing in mind that, if necessary, there are penal laws for the protection of public morality, hand them, by means of these, to the justice of the tribunals."

THE THREE FLITCHES OF BACON proposed to be presented this year by Mr. Harrison Ainsworth will not take place as intended, there being only one happy couple who are claimants. Without competition all the preliminary fun would be done away with, and the whole affair would become a dead letter.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 6.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE RIOTS IN ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.

Viscount DUNGANNON called attention to the serious riots occurring on each successive Sunday in the parish of St. George-in-the-East; more especially to those which took place on Sundays, 17th and 24th of June, on which one of the preachers and the choristers were assaulted; and inquired whether any and what more effective measures of prevention were to be adopted by the Government.

The Bishop of LONDON urged that effectual measures should be taken in this matter; and, as an Act had recently passed which gave the churchwardens greater power to have rioters taken into custody and punished summarily, he hoped that law would be put into operation. He thought that some legislation should take place which would diminish the unlimited power the parochial clergy possessed of regulating the services of their churches as they pleased.

Earl GRANVILLE said that the Government had placed the matter in the hands of the police authorities, and they had no power to do anything further.

After some further conversation the subject dropped.

THE BIBLE IN INDIA.

The Bishop of OXFORD presented a petition on the introduction of the Bible into the Government schools in India, and urged the Government to repeal the measure which excluded the Bible from those schools.

NEW ZEALAND.

On the motion of the Duke of NEWCASTLE (who stated that that would be the last occasion on which he would be able to address the House this Session) the New Zealand Bill passed through Committee.

THE JEWS.

On the motion of Lord LYNCHBURST the Jews' Act Amendment Bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE PAPER DUTY.

Lord FERMOY asked Lord Palmerston whether, inasmuch as Mr. Gladstone had expressed an opinion in favour of further action on the question of privileges between the Lords and Commons, the noble Lord would be prepared to initiate any measure with that object after the resolutions now before the House were carried.

Lord PALMERSTON said he was perfectly satisfied with the resolutions, and, if they were carried, he did not intend to go further.

THE TAX BILLS RESOLUTIONS.

The debate on the Tax Bills resolutions was resumed by Mr. DIGNY SKYMOUR, who said that he had no complaint to make of the resolutions in themselves, but that they had stopped short of the point at which they would have tended to vindicate the privileges of that House.

Mr. HORSMAN said that when the Budget was first introduced he pointed out the inevitable consequences to which the remission of the paper duty would lead. Since then he had watched the change of opinion with regard to it, and the grave constitutional question which it had raised, the perils of which were only averted by the calm judgment of the First Minister, which, he was sorry to say, was not shared by some of his colleagues. Mr. Gladstone had asked if the Lords were to interfere with the financial plan of the House of Commons, and he would answer that when the Commons ran riot in their places then it was the duty of the Lords to interfere. The power of the Lords to review, check, and correct the financial plans of the Commons was as clear as their right to review any other measure. The interference of the Lords in this instance was not to be viewed merely in connection with an insignificant excise duty, but in connection with a dangerous and innovating financial scheme. In times past the Lords influenced even the financial action of the Commons, though it was nominally in them; and it was only when the Commons became more really the representatives of the people, and not the nominees of the Lords, that they assumed their present position in the government of the country. The Lords having now become proportionately weakened, it was necessary to define those rights of the Upper House which were indispensable to make them a check upon the despotism of democracy. That position Mr. Gladstone wished to deprive them of, and, looking on them as an anomaly, was desirous of reducing them to a nonentity. On the contrary, there was everything about the Peerage as a body which tended to identify them with all the best interests of the people, and in that sense they were a representative body. If there was no House of Peers it would be necessary to create one; and there was never a time when their constitutional position should be more asserted and maintained. The real power of the Lords was to interpose to give time for consideration on legislation; and when the national will was declared they must yield to it, and in the sense of making the national sentiment the basis of their action they were essentially a responsible body, and, as finance now made one half of legislation, the Lords ought not to be excluded from exercising the same control on fiscal as they did on other measures. All this being so, he could not see on what ground the undoubted legal right of the Peers could be questioned in reference to the paper duty, and this House had no materials for a contest with the Lords.

Mr. BRIGHT argued that Mr. Horsman in consistency ought to have followed his speech by a motion in direct opposition to the terms of the first resolution, which was a very good one, while the others were ambiguous and unsatisfactory. No one had denied that the Lords had broken in on a usage which had never before been infringed on. If this were not the case, why should there have been a Committee, and why these resolutions, which, by implication at least, condemned what the Lords had done? The hon. gentleman referred to precedents showing the inviolable right of the Commons to direct, limit, and appoint the whole nature and character of bills of supply and disposing of public moneys, and established the principle that taxation and representation went together and were inseparable.

Mr. MELLOR and Mr. WHALLEY almost simultaneously moved the adjournment of the debate.

After some discussion the motion for adjournment was withdrawn, and the first resolution agreed to.

On the second resolution,

Mr. MELLOR objected to it, as assuming more than the precedents proved, and moved the insertion of the words "relating, among other matters, to taxation."

Lord PALMERSTON objected to the proposed alteration.

Mr. WHALLEY moved the adjournment to the debate.

On a division the adjournment was negatived by 433 to 36.

A division was then taken on Mr. Mellor's amendment, which was rejected by 369 to 52.

The resolution was then agreed to.

On the third resolution being put,

Lord FERMOY moved the adjournment of the debate, the motion was not pressed, and

The resolution was agreed to.

The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned.

MONDAY, JULY 9.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Marquis of NORMANBY entered into some explanations and corrections relative to his Florentine correspondence on the subject of atrocities committed during the existence of the Provisional Government at Florence. These statements had since been substantiated in a Liberal newspaper, which had been issued since the Provisional Government had ceased to exist, and that body had not attempted to deny the facts, although they made efforts to suppress the newspaper.

Lord BROUGHAM said that nothing had fallen from the noble Marquis to induce him to think that his information was less to be relied on than that of the noble Marquis. He had no reason to believe that the Provisional Government had sanctioned any atrocities such as had been alluded to.

Lord WODENHOUSE believed that General Garibaldi had done his utmost to prevent the outrages which had taken place, and had used severe measures in order to put an end to them.

The Duke of SOMERSET, in moving the second reading of the Naval Discipline Bill, stated that the object of the bill was to regulate a vast number of minor details, and to define certain offences and their punishments.

The bill was read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BANKRUPTCY BILL.

The adjourned debate on the report of the Committee upon the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Salaries, &c., Bill, with the amendment, agreed to by the House, to omit the word "compensations" from the charges which the first resolution laid upon the Consolidated Fund, was resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL stated the course he proposed to take to repair, as he said, the mischief done by the vote of the House. While he acknowledged the genuine support he had received from members of the legal profession in the ranks of the Opposition, he complained bitterly of the blow inflicted by familiar friends who sat on the benches behind him, and made it a tacit condition of his proceeding with the bill that they should evince a disposition to put confidence in the Government. He then explained in detail the financial arrangements and the alterations in the bill contingent upon the adoption of the amended resolution.

The first resolution, as amended, and the other resolutions were agreed to. The House then went into Committee upon the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Bill, the clauses of which up to the 77th (the number in the bill exceeding 100) underwent a very full discussion, more than one amendment

adverse to the views of the Attorney-General having been carried upon a division, much to his apparent dissatisfaction.

Upon the question that the Chairman report progress, Mr. MALINS, advertent to the number of clauses remaining for consideration, and to the rate of progress made, recommended the withdrawal of the bill, a suggestion, however, which was not favourably received by the House.

Lord PALMERSTON moved the adjournment of the Committee till Thursday, which was agreed to.

TUESDAY, JULY 10. HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE MASSACRE IN SYRIA.

Lord STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE drew the attention of the House to the recent massacre of Christians in Syria, and in a very able speech pointed out the necessity of this country proving for those interests which might be seriously compromised by delay or indifference. Having traced the progress of the fanatical spirit which inspired the Mohammedan tribes to these frightful outrages, he concluded by asking whether any official account of these massacres had been received? whether they would be laid before the House, and when? whether Her Majesty's Government had taken any, and what, steps, either singly or in concert with other Powers, for the protection of the Christians and her Majesty's subjects in Syria? and whether the Government had received information that France had determined to put a stop to the atrocities which had been and were being committed?

Lord WODKHOUSE said that the information he had received fully confirmed the statements of his noble friend. On one occasion a number of unarmed Christians were massacred by the Druses, and Turkish troops, which were at hand, did not interfere. It was hoped and believed that some of the Christian inhabitants had escaped. The Druses had been joined by other tribes and by some of the Mohammedan population against the Maronites. The Turkish authorities, probably owing to their weakness, did not interfere. The Ambassadors at Constantinople met some weeks ago, and endeavoured to urge the Turkish Government to act. Since then Fuad Pacha had been sent as a Commissioner to Syria, and troops had been dispatched there. Her Majesty's Government had sent orders to Admiral Martin to proceed with his squadron to the coast of Syria to protect British subjects. French and Russian ships of war had also been sent there. The Government was in communication with all the other Powers on the subject. He was not aware that M. Thouvenel had made the statement to the Turkish Ambassador alluded to by his noble friend.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE SYRIAN MASSACRES.

In answer to Lord C. Hamilton, Lord J. RUSSELL said that he had received official confirmation of the outbreaks in the district of Lebanon, and they were quite as extensive as were reported in the newspapers. Fuad Pacha and a body of troops had been sent by the Turkish Government to the spot. The British Government had directed Admiral Martin to proceed with a squadron to the coast of Syria, for the protection of British subjects.

WAR AND DEFENCE EXPENSES.

In answer to Sir J. Shelley, Lord PALMERSTON said that on Friday the Chancellor of the Exchequer would state the amount required for the China war, and the mode in which it would be provided for; and he would himself state on that day the amount of money the Government proposed to raise for the erection of fortifications in accordance with the report of the Commission on National Defences.

ITALIAN AFFAIRS.

In answer to Mr. GRIFFITH, Lord J. RUSSELL said that he had received a communication from Sir J. Hudson to the effect that no pressure was being put on the Government of Sardinia by that of France to induce the former to enter into alliance with that of Naples. With regard to the subject of the conference on the affairs of Savoy and the question of the military frontier of Switzerland, its object would be to make the 92nd article of the Treaty of Vienna accord with the Treaty of Turin, and it would be competent to the representative of any of the Powers to make such proposals as it was thought would attain that object.

INCREASE OF PAY TO SEAMEN.

Mr. COCHRANE moved an address to the Crown praying that the officers, marines, and seamen serving in China may be placed on the same footing as her Majesty's troops with respect to extra pay and allowance.

Sir M. SEYMOUR seconded the motion, which was also supported by Admiral WALCOTT.

Lord C. PAGET said that during all the former wars in China, and during the Indian mutiny, the seamen had received additional remuneration; but it would be impossible to arrange extra pay in the mode proposed by the motion. The Army received field allowance—an allowance which could not be claimed by sailors. The Government intended to propose a grant for the officers and seamen who had been engaged in the former operations in China; and he was quite sure that when the present operations were over a similar grant would be made for the officers, seamen, and marines engaged in them.

After some discussion the motion was withdrawn.

THE SUPPLY OF GAS.

The House then went into Committee on the Gas (Metropolis) Bill. Mr. STANLAND opposed the bill on the ground of the provisions tending unduly to reduce the profits of the gas companies, and to introduce an inquisitorial system of inspection. He moved that the Chairman do leave the chair.

Mr. S. ESTCOURT, as chairman of a Select Committee which had considered the subject, defended the bill, and suggested that it should be referred to that Committee.

Sir G. C. LEWIS thought that the suggestion was a judicious one, and urged its acceptance.

After some debate the bill was referred to a Select Committee.

THE NEW MEAT MARKET.

The Smithfield Markets, Streets, and Improvements Bill passed through Committee.

Mr. BOUVIER moved that it be referred to the Examiners of Private Bills. On a division the motion was rejected by 112 to 60.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11. HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE CENSUS BILL.

The House went into Committee on the Census (England) Bill. The first three clauses were agreed to. On the 4th clause, which provides for a declaration of the religious profession of each person enumerated,

Mr. BAINES moved the omission of the words in question from the clause, pointing out that the feeling of the Dissenting body was to be gathered from the vast number of petitions which had been presented against it, and protesting against an enactment which was so much opposed to the strong religious sentiments of a large body of the people of this country.

Sir G. C. LEWIS said that the plan now proposed was adopted in all civilised countries except England, and was carried into effect in some of our colonies. A return of the kind had been made in 1834, in Ireland, under a Royal Commission, without an Act of Parliament, and the members of every religious denomination had aided in carrying it out. He pointed out that the objection of the Dissenters was, on their own showing, merely an unmeaning instinct, while the present plan was intended to correct the imperfections and fallacies of the plan of 1831. Still, it must be admitted that the Census and its success depended on the voluntary co-operation of the people. He had received from the Registrar-General a statement that the religious-profession clause would operate not merely to render the religious return, but the general return, imperfect and ineffectual. Under these circumstances, seeing that a fervid sentiment was roused in a large body of persons against the clause, he was not prepared to press it.

Mr. B. OSBORNE characterised Sir G. C. Lewis's speech as calculated to offend all parties; and, after giving excellent reasons for retaining the clause, he had concluded by withdrawing it. He denied the right of the Government to inquire into the religious profession of any person in this country.

Lord R. CRECH said he thought that the Church of England would not complain of the giving up of this clause. He saw no business that the State had to inquire into any man's religion; but the result of what occurred would show that previous statistics of this kind were too favourable to Dissenters, and that they did not wish the facts to be known which the proposed system would have brought out.

A discussion followed, in the course of which much disapproval was expressed with Sir G. C. Lewis's speech.

Mr. MONSELL hoped that the provision for taking a religious census would be retained for Ireland, where such objections as had been made in England did not exist.

Mr. CALDWELL said it was the wish in Ireland that such a census should be taken, and it was intended to retain the provision in question in the bill for Ireland.

Sir J. PARKINGTON expressed his regret that no religious census was to be taken. He could not really understand the objection which the dissenters entertained to such a proceeding. He could not see or feel an insult or offence in a man's being asked what his religious profession was; and he was driven to believe that the dissenters were afraid of the results of an examination which was not objected to by any other body of Christians, which would show that they were not so strong as they asserted they were, or as was shown by the last census.

Lord PALMERSTON said Sir G. Lewis had been unjustly accused of casting

reflections on the dissenting body. Even Mr. Baines had himself shown that religious statistics were valuable and useful; and he (Lord Palmerston) entirely agreed in putting into the Census Bill a religious enumeration, and he denied that it implied any inquiry as to doctrinal questions. "Nor could he see how such an inquiry could be construed into an affront to persons of any denomination; and it did appear to him that the objection to it was an unreasonable one. Nothing could have been more fallacious than the plan adopted in 1831. Until lately he could not have believed that the non-conformist objection was so wide spread, and when he found it was so he thought that such an expression of opinion on the part of so large a body was entitled to respect, and therefore he concurred in the withdrawing of the provision."

Mr. WHITEHEAD said that the course taken by the Government led him to express a hope that as the dissenters had prevailed when they had not reason on their side, that when they had reason on their side they would fail. He urged with some point that any well-ascertained statistics would show that the Established Church was not a sect; and the best proof of its being an overwhelming majority was that the dissenters were afraid of a census. He objected to insert this provision in the Irish Census Bill, because such a measure ought to be uniform for the whole kingdom.

After a short further discussion the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CHILDERS moved to insert the word "education" in the clause.

Sir G. C. LEWIS, in objecting to the amendment, took occasion to vindicate himself from the charge of being offensive and uncourteous to the dissenting body.

The amendment was negatived. This and the other clauses were passed, and the House resumed.

The House then went into Committee on the Irish Census Bill, which was agreed to, the religious profession clause being retained.

The other orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, JULY 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE STATE OF PUBLIC BUSINESS.

The Earl of DERRY gave notice that on that day week he would call attention to the state of public business. He added that his remarks would not be of a party character, but would be simply directed to the present mode of conducting public business.

THE JEWES ACT AMENDMENT BILL.

On the motion of Lord LYNCHBURST, this bill went into Committee, pro forma, with the view of introducing some amendments into it.

THE PRIVILEGE QUESTION.

Lord BROTHAM, in the course of a conversation that took place on this bill, expressed his opinion that that House had an undoubted right to reject or to amend any bill coming up from the other House, whether such bill be one for the imposition or the repeal of a tax. He would go further, and say that that House had an undoubted right to originate a bill enacting a tax, and to send it down for the assent of the other House of Parliament. It was quite a different question whether it was expedient for their Lordships to act upon their rights.

The following bills passed through Committee—viz., The Naval Discipline, Railway Cheap Trains, &c., Augmentation of Small Benefices, Universities' and College Estates, Phoenix Park, Tenison's Charity, and Local Government Supplemental Bills.

The Indemnity Bill and the Local Taxation Returns Bill were read a second time.

The Anstruther Union Harbour Bill and the Law and Equity Bill were read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House went into Committee upon the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Bill, the discussion of the clauses of which occupied the whole of the morning sitting.

THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE GALWAY CONTRACT.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to Mr. CORRY, said that an arrangement had been made, subject to the assent of the Government, for the purchase of the assignment of the Galway contract of the Montreal and Ocean Steam-ship Company. A copy of the assignment had been placed in his hands, with an intimation that a reply immediately was necessary. The Government replied that they could not sanction the assignment. Since that time, in reply to another request, the matter was under consideration.

In reply to Mr. HORSFALL, THE CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said the advertisement which was published on Monday last, and which stated that "the Galway contract having been transferred to the Montreal Ocean Steam-ship Company, the *North Briton*, which sails on Wednesday, will call at Galway for the Newfoundland, United States, and Canadian Mails," was published without the authority of the Government, and the pledge which was given to Mr. Inman, as the representative of the Liverpool and Philadelphia Steam-ship Company, would be respected.

THE MASSACRE OF CHRISTIANS IN SYRIA.

Sir G. NAPIER called attention to the massacre of Christians which had lately taken place in Syria, and asked the Government to state what course they intended to take in the matter?

Lord J. RUSSELL said the information which had reached him was to the effect that the whole amount of Turkish troops in Syria was 400 when the disturbances commenced. Since then, however, large reinforcements had been sent them, which, with the English and foreign fleets on the coast, would enable them to act effectively in the interior. They were also collected in sufficient force to protect Damascus from any attack that might be made upon it.

ANNEXATION OF SICILY TO SARDINIA.

Sir R. PERL moved for copies or extracts of papers relating to the threatened annexation of Sicily to Piedmont, and to any information received by her Majesty's Government as to the probable demands of France consequent upon the event of that annexation taking place; also for any papers showing that her Majesty's Government have within the last few weeks intimated to the Government of Turin that the continued aggressive policy of that Government would not be viewed with indifference by Great Britain.

Lord J. RUSSELL said he was at a loss to know what the hon. Baronet desired. The old Italian system, tried so long by Austria, and afterwards by Naples, had proved to be an entire failure, and the people of that country now looked to a union with some other country to protect them from the tyranny and oppression to which they had heretofore been subjected for ages. Her Majesty's Government had warned the Neapolitan Government that their rule endangered their authority in Sicily and Naples, but they had rejected all advice. Concessions had been suggested to them to make to the people, but the Government had uniformly refused to adopt them; and, now that retribution had come upon that Power, her Majesty's Government had nothing to reproach themselves with. The noble Lord defended the character of Garibaldi from the charge of filibustering. The people of Sicily had determined to choose for themselves their own form of government, and he contended that no foreign Power had a right to interfere with them. If they decided on annexation he thought the Government would not be justified in preventing it. The concessions offered by the King of Naples had come too late, and he could not now complain, after having treated with contempt the advice which had been given him by the British Government.

After some discussion the motion was withdrawn.

THE PRIVILEGE QUESTION.

On the motion for going into Committee of Supply, Sir J. TRELAWNY interposed some comments upon "the discreditable position" to which, as he contended, the House was placed by the recent unsatisfactory result of the controversy with the House of Lords on the question of privilege.

SUPPLY.—THE CHINA WAR.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, when Mr. S. HERBERT, in moving for a vote of £3,000,000 to defray the expenses of the China war, explained the circumstances which led him to understate the amount the Government would require for that purpose. A sum of £400,000 he was not responsible for, because it was a debt due to the old East India Company. He did not think this was a time to make any attack upon the finances of India. He had looked back to the Persian, the Kafir, and the Crimean wars, and in every instance he had found that a large sum of money had been asked for, and he had followed those examples. He wished to inform the House that the General who had organised our defeat at the mouth of the Peiho was at the head of the war party in China, and held a position in relation to the Emperor of China which was very distasteful to him. Therefore, until the English could strike some blow that would give him a decided defeat and bring him into disgrace, there was no chance of the policy of the Government of that country being changed.

After some discussion a vote of £3,356,404 was taken, and the Chairman reported progress.—The House soon after adjourned.

TRADE WITH RUSSIA.—Our exports to Russia have vastly extended in the last ten years, and are now on a considerably larger scale than they were before the Crimean war. The total value of British and Irish produce exported to Russia has been as follows since June, 1850:—

Year.	Exports.	Year.	Exports.
1850	£1,434,771	1855	—
1851	1,289,791	1856	£1,595,237
1852	1,099,917	1857	3,098,819
1853	1,228,404	1858	5,092,490
1854	54,301	1859	4,069,199

THE DEPARTURE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

The Prince of Wales took leave of the Queen on Monday at Cowes, and departed in the Royal yacht for Plymouth. He was accompanied by the Prince Consort.

Here the Prince of Wales received an address from the Corporation of Devonport, to which he made the following reply:—

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—I thank you warmly for this address, for the expressions of your loyalty and devotion to the Queen, and for the kind sentiments to myself which characterise this farewell from your important town on the eve of my departure for a short time from my native land. You may well look back with pride to the fact that so many eminent colonists have embarked on their great mission from your shores. It shall not be my fault if I fail to convey across the Atlantic the feelings entertained by the Queen and the people of England for the descendants of those men and for the countries which they founded. I go to the great possessions of the Queen in North America with a lively anticipation of the pleasure which the sight of a noble land, great works of nature and of human skill, and a generous and active people, must produce; and I shall endeavour to bring home with me such information as may in the future be of use to me in all my associations with my countrymen. Again I thank you for your good wishes for my safe voyage and happy return.

The Prince went on board the *Hero* that same evening under a salute from Plymouth citadel and from H.M.S. *Emerald*. Next morning the *Hero* (91) sailed, accompanied by the *Ariadne* (26); again saluted by the citadel, the *Emerald*, and the Cornish Royal Volunteers, from a field-battery near the ruins of Mount Edgcumbe Park. About a league and a half south-east of the Eddystone the *Hero* was joined by Vice-Admiral Sir Charles Fremantle's Channel squadron, which had formed in two lines. It is understood that the squadron, after escorting the Prince part of the way across the Atlantic, will return to Bantry Bay, and, having already visited the capital of Scotland, there is some probability of their going afterwards to Dublin.

THE PAPER DUTY AND THE REVENUE.

The Association for Promoting the Repeal of the Paper Duty has circulated the following letter, with a form of petition to the House of Lords:—

"Whatever measures may be adopted by the House of Commons, it is desirable that reasons should be shown to the House of Lords for retracting their decision. As the sole pretext for that decision is that the repeal of the paper duty would diminish the revenue, so the strongest argument in reply is that such repeal would increase the revenue instead of diminishing it. The inclosed table of the amount of the excise duties for thirty years shows that, while in 1831 twenty-three taxes yielded £17,795,512, in 1859 twelve taxes yielded £22,826,766, which, after deducting £1,200,000 for the shortening the malt credit, leaves £21,626,766. During the interval only one excise tax had been imposed—that on railways; twelve had been repealed—namely:—

Advertisements, yielding in 1831	£172,570
Almanacks	30,841
Auctions	230,227
Bricks and Tiles	375,094
Candles	477,459
Glass	732,454
Pamphlets	867
Soap	1,431,475
Stamps	100,331
Stone bottles	3,549
Sweets and Mead	2,350
Vinegar	19,313
	£3,576,530

"Thus we have an increase of 21 per cent in the excise revenue, owing to a reduction of 20 per cent of taxation. When we look at the immediate effect of the repeal of any excise we find the result still more striking.

"In 1844 the glass duty yielded £847,160; the total excise revenue was £17,355,312. During the next year the glass duty was abolished, its yield for the former part of the year being £311,609; the total excise revenue was £17,448,874—that is to say, an increase of £93,562, instead of a decrease of £535,551. In 1846 there was no glass duty at all, and the total excise revenue was £18,183,445, being an increase on that of 1844 of £828,142, as nearly as possible the amount of the duty remitted.

"In 1849 the tax on bricks yielded 462,765; the whole excise revenue was £17,363,398. The tax on bricks ceased with the year; the excise revenue for 1850 was £17,835,846, being an increase of £472,448, a little more than the amount of the tax repealed.

"In 1852 the soap duty yielded £1,397,663; the total excise revenue was £18,438,915. In 1853 the soap duty ceased, the amount collected during the former part of that year being £617,235, and the amount remitted £750,433; the total excise revenue for 1853 was £19,105,404, being an increase of £666,489, or only £33,914 less than the amount of soap duty remitted in that year. In 1854 the total excise revenue was £19,739,185, being an increase over that of 1852 of £1,300,270, being only £97,398 less than the whole of the soap duty remitted.

"In 1853 an increase was made in the rate of the duties on malt and spirits. The increase in the total excise would probably have taken place without any such increase in the rate of these duties. The duties on the materials of intoxication have, however, far less effect in diminishing consumption than the duties on any other articles. The beer tax was repealed in 1831. In 1857 the malt duty was reduced to its previous amount. The total yield from beer was—

	1850.	1859.
Beer duty	£2,390,310	£339,918
Malt duty	4,231,997	5,652,458
Hop duty	121,451	462,881
	£6,743,758	£6,115,339

While the revenue derived, thirty years ago, from a duty on the means of intoxication has not yet been replaced, that derived from duties on glass, bricks, and soap, was doubled immediately on their repeal. The amount of positive increase to the revenue has, in these cases, been equal to the amount of taxation remitted. In other words, the remission of excise taxation has caused an increase in the yield of the other excise taxes equivalent to double the amount remitted. Glass, bricks, and soap enter largely into the industrial operations of the country; their liberation from taxation has therefore increased the amount of labourers employed in those operations, and with it the consumption of beer and spirits, which yield the chief amount of excise duties.

"We are unable to state the weight or the value of the glass now made in this country, but the following return of the amount exported shows what an increase there must be, if, indeed, this increase were not evident to the eyes of every one:—

	Cwts.	Declared Value
1843	257,403	£339,918
1858	625,169	569,216

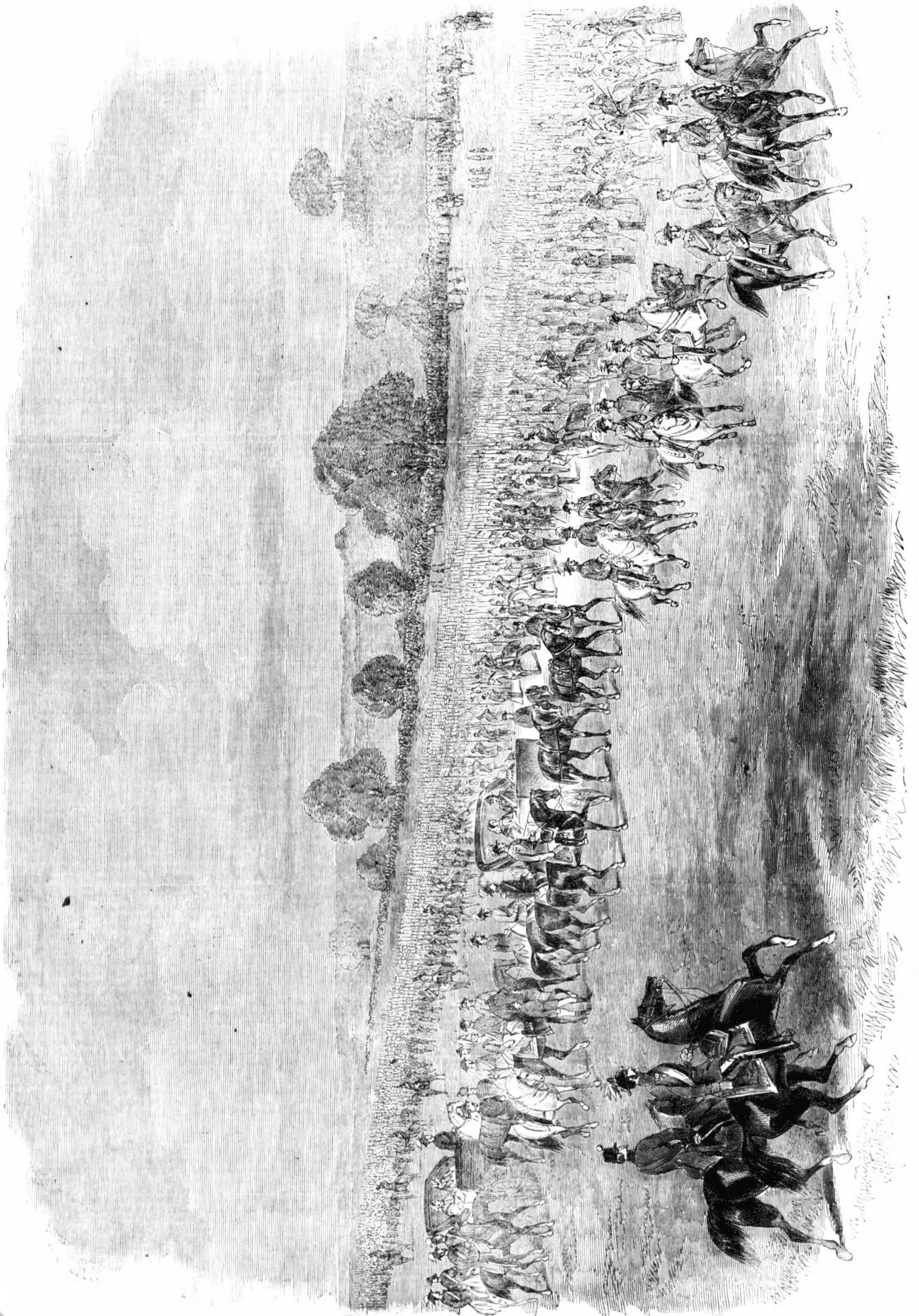
"There is scarcely any trade in which paper is not used, either as material or for wrapping. There can be no doubt that the effect of repealing the paper duty will be the same as that of repealing the tax on soap—namely, that from the very hour that it is repealed the remaining taxes will yield an amount increase by double the tax remitted.

"Some idea of the effect of the duty may be formed by looking at those branches of the manufacture which are accidentally and unfairly exempted from it. The Fibrous Slab Company make flooring and wainscoting from coconut and old rope; the result is as truly paper as papier-mâché; the price is three-halfpence per pound—just the amount of the duty.

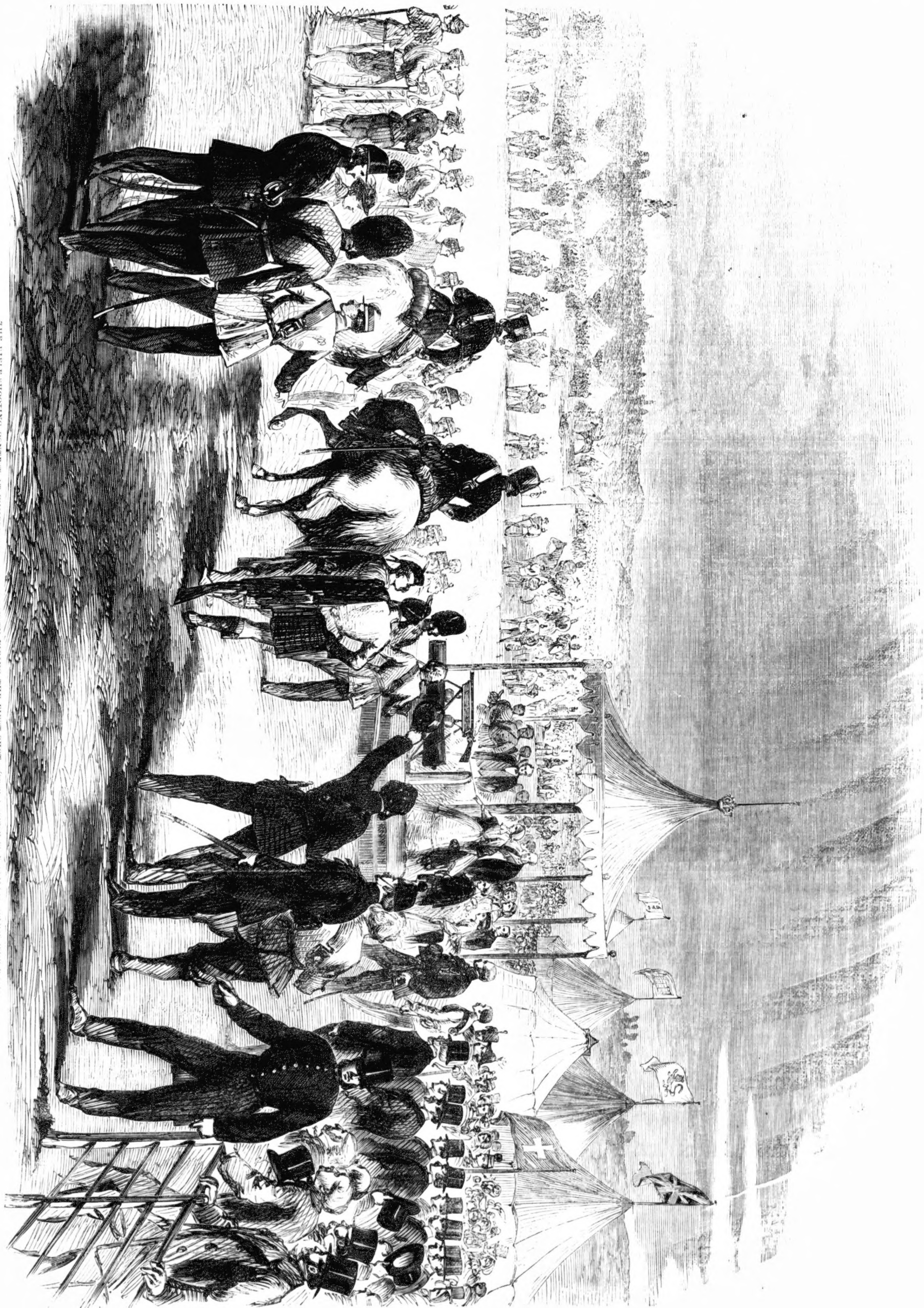
"The repeal of the paper duty is, therefore, pre-eminently a safe measure. Of all the items in Mr. Gladstone's Budget, not one rests on such a thoroughly sound financial basis. The penny income tax is not wanted to balance the effects of paper-duty repeal, since that repeal will increase the revenue."

* After deducting £1,200,000 for the increase caused by shortening the credit.

A MODEL of the attack, siege, and capture of a strongly fortified town has just been completed at the Royal Engineer Establishment, Chatham, under the superintendence of Captain H. Schaw.



THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.—HER MAJESTY AND STAFF PASSING ALONG THE LINES.—(FROM A SKETCH BY E. CLAYTON, LONDON IRISH RIFLES.)



THE LITTLE SHOOTING GROUND AT WIMBLEDON—HER MAJESTY FIRING THE FIRST SHOT—FROM A SKETCH BY H. CHAPMAN, ESQ., FOR THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

THE RIFLE CONTEST.

THE first grand competition of the volunteers came to a close on Saturday. The firing was continuous on every day from the previous Monday; there was no interruption by any casualty or other serious cause, and the weather was fine throughout. Yet ten hours per diem did not give time enough to compete for all the prizes, and the prize of fifty guineas offered by Miss Coutts had to be withdrawn. When the competitors are numerous, the time required to decide a contest at three different ranges, and those the longest, is very considerable. It is not an affair of minutes, like a race; it may rather be reckoned by hours. The firing of a rifle match is not in the least like a *feu de joie*. The rifleman is deliberate in his shooting. With a good sum of money, to say nothing of the honour, depending on the twitch of his finger, he must not throw away his shot. To see a competitor in the act of aiming, no one would mistake the process for an amusement. The calculation of angles he is working would confound a Kepler. The elevations and depressions are measured by the breadth of hairs, and "allowing for the wind" alone is such a difficult business that he might well envy the animal that is said to see it. If anything is wrong with the "sights," it adds to the complexity, and complaints on this point were numerous. The Swiss, it was remarked, were generally slower in their aim than those of the English school. But the present meeting will have furnished valuable experience for future years, for this competition will undoubtedly become an annual one.

There is so little to describe in a shooting-match that, the affair being over, and the daily proceedings having been daily chronicled, we pass at once to the great question, who were the winners? They were seen at the Crystal Palace on Monday where the prizes were distributed. Mr. Sydney Herbert was to have presided at this solemnity, but his official duties obliged him to remain in town, and so the chair was taken by the Earl de Grey and Ripon, the Under Secretary for War. He was supported by Lord Elcho, Colonel Bewes, Colonel C. Kennedy, and Captain Mildmay, the secretary of the Rifle Association.

The centre of the Crystal Palace is exactly the place for such a purpose as it was applied to on Monday. The distant points are beyond the range of most speaking voices; but on such occasions, even in smaller edifices, it is not so much what is transmitted by the ear as what is addressed to the eye, that tells. It was to see the prizes given, and to take note of the winners, that the public gathered. The scene from the platform had not, in itself, much that was novel. A few wreaths of laurel in front of the platform, a statuette of Victory behind the President's chair, and a very legible motto, "Defence, not Defiance," in front of the organ, were the more special and appropriate decorations of the scene. The rifles of honour, the objects of so many hopes and aims, were laid out, duly ticketed to the winners, on a table, within easy reach of the President; the handsome silver cup, the prize of the London Brigade, gleamed resplendent on another. A very desirable number of purses remained in the custody of the authorities till the time for producing them.

The President opened the proceedings by an address, in which he said:—

There is no doubt that rifle-shooting is not the only object of the volunteer—that he cannot dispense with drill; but, on the other hand, drill will not alone suffice him, because, gifted as the volunteer force is with an intelligence beyond the mass of other military forces, it is peculiarly needful that they should exercise that intelligence in learning the use of that weapon which has been placed in their hands by the Government, and which the results of the recent competition have proved to be such an admirable one. On this account it is that my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War felt that he was not only discharging a duty pleasing to himself as an individual when he became president of the association, but that he was also discharging his public duty, by giving his sanction to those efforts as a Minister of the Crown. This association is not, however, dependent on the support of the Government; it does not look to the Government funds for its assistance; it prefers to rely on the aid of the British people; and while it is sanctioned by the Government and consecrated by the Sovereign, it is to the British public alone it must look for support and maintenance. But not only has this occasion a deep national interest and importance, as pointing out that for the future this English nation will be a nation trained to the use of the rifle—and every man in England, I trust, will, before long, be able to wield that powerful weapon—but it is a deep interest for another reason. There have been present at Wimbledon, during the past week, contending—and contending successfully—for the prizes now about to be distributed, a large number of gentlemen who have come over to this country from Switzerland. Allow me heartily to congratulate you on that circumstance. The Swiss in their rifle practice, and we in ours, have a common object. We do not either of us seek to train the people of this country or of Switzerland to the use of this weapon for aggressive purposes. But both of us believe that a training of this description, intended only for national defence, is in reality a movement of a peaceful character, and is the best security for the maintenance of peace.

The presentation of the prizes immediately followed his Lordship's address. Lord Elcho read the list. Every winner was called upon the platform separately, the volunteers and regulars saluting in military fashion as they advanced, the civilians with the less formal bow. The prizes were handed to the President by Colonel Kennedy, and given by the President to the winners, who then crossed the platform and descended on the opposite side. They were all cheered as they passed, especially the Swiss, and of them more particularly MM. Peter and Knecht, who came, and went, and came again, each time for or with a prize, till a good-natured laugh blended with the cheers at each reappearance. The very first name called was also that of a Swiss winner, M. Thorel, of Geneva. The complete list of the prizes, their value, the winners, and the number of points is given below, and presents all the results of the week in one view.

1.—A Whitworth rifle, given by Mr. Fairbairn, shot for by the Swiss at 500 yards, 5 rounds with any rifle. Won by Thorel, of Geneva. The winner shot with a Whitworth rifle—9 points.

2.—Swiss rifle, given by the Swiss, and shot for by the volunteers who competed for the Whitworth rifles (the forty who shot for her Majesty's prize excepted), 5 rounds at 500 yards. Won by Dear, 9th Middlesex—7 points.

3.—Prize of £50 given by the Duke of Wellington, for rifles shot from a rest at 1000 yards, 5 rounds; to which was added, as a second prize, a watch, given by Mr. Bennett, value £35. The Duke of Wellington's prize was won by Lieutenant Archibald, Instructor of Musketry, 55th Regiment. The winner shot with Westley Richards' breech-loader—3 points. Mr. Bennett's prize was won by Knecht, of Zurich, with a Westley Richards' breech-loader—3 points. (It may be remarked here that the barrel of the Westley Richards' weapon is rifled on Mr. Whitworth's principle, and is a cheaper and less-finished weapon than the Whitworth.)

4.—Mr. Gye's prizes for volunteers, 5 rounds at 300, 500, and 600 yards, £200 distributed as follows:—1st prize £100, won by Whomes, 4th Kent Rifles—20 points. 2nd prize, £25, won by Sandford, St. George's Volunteers—19 points. 3rd prize, £25, won by Robertson, 10th Perth—19 points. 4th prize, £25, won by Dove, 91st Lanark—18 points; and 5th prize, £25, won by Murray, 1st Peebleshire—18 points.

5.—Duke of Cambridge's prize of £50 for breech-loaders, 5 rounds at 800 and 5 rounds at 1000 yards; to which were added three prizes of rifles, value £30, £20, and £11 11s., given by Mr. Westley Richards. The Duke of Cambridge's prize was won by Knecht, of Zurich—10 points; Mr. W. Richards' £30, won by Lieutenant Lacy, 12th Regiment—9 points; ditto, £20, won by Turner, 1st Berks—8 points; ditto, £11 11s., won by Edwards, 4th West York—8 points. The whole of these prizes were won with Westley Richards' breech-loaders.

6.—All Corners, 1st Set, 200 yards, 5 rounds.—Given by—1. Lord Vernon, Whitworth rifle, won by Debe, Geneva—12 points. 2. National Rifle Association, £20, won by Newman, Royal Marines—12. 3. N.R.A., £20, won by Ross, 7th North Riding—11. 4. N.R.A., £20, won by Knecht, Zurich—11. 5. N.R.A., £20, won by Peter, Geneva—11. 6. N.R.A., £20, won by Chessix, Vaud—11. 7. Mr. Turner's rifle, won by Mauler, Neuchâtel—10. 2nd Set, 300 yards, 5 rounds.—Given by—1. The Ladies of Northamptonshire, £25, won by Ross, 7th North Riding—9 points. 2. N.R.A., £20, won by Ingram, Lanark—9. 3. N.R.A., £20, won by Nourissin, Geneva—9. 4. N.R.A., £20, won by Wilson, School of Musketry—9. 5. N.R.A., £20, won by Hill, Swiss—8. 6. N.R.A., £20, won by Dillon, School of Musketry—8. 7. Mr. Lancaster's rifle, won by Forbes, 2nd Derby Volunteers—8. 3rd Set, 500 yards, 5 rounds.—Given by—1. N.R.A., £40, won by Brooks, 12th Middlesex—7 points. 2. N.R.A., £40, won by Major Tinley, 2nd Lancashire—7. 3. N.R.A., £40, won by Sergeant Stapleton, Coldstream Guards—7. 4. N.R.A., £40, won by Dove, 91st Lanarkshire—7. 5. N.R.A., £40, won by Forbes, 2nd Derbyshire—7. 6. Mr. Lancaster's rifle, won by Peter, Geneva—7. 7. Mr. Lancaster's rifle, won by Roth, Geneva—6.

4th Set, 600 yards, 5 rounds.—Given by—1. N.R.A., £20, won by Captain Rowland, 55th Regiment—6 points. 2. N.R.A., £20, won by Wright, Royal

Artillery—6. 3. N.R.A., £50, won by Major Tinley, 2nd Lancashire—6. 4. N.R.A., £50, won by Holloway, 5th Gloucester—6. 5. N.R.A., £50, won by Saddler, 10th Sussex—5. Army and Navy Gazette, £20, won by Cocks, St. George's—5. Mr. Egan's rifle, won by Corporal Hodder, 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards—4. This prize was not forthcoming, Mr. Egan having omitted to send the rifle, and Corporal Hodder, having been called up to the dais, had to descend with an apology instead of the weapon he had won. 5th Set, Prince Consort's Prize of £100, shot for by all comers who qualified at the preceding ranges of 200, 300, 500, and 600 yards; fired at 800, 900, and 1000 yards, 10 rounds at each distance. Second Prize—1st London Rifle Brigade Cup, value £52 10s. Third Prize—Mr. E. T. Smith's Rifle, value £35. Prince Consort's Prize, won by Lieutenant Lacy, 12th Regiment, Instructor of Musketry—22 points. Second prize, won by Sergeant Lawley, 2nd Derby Volunteers—18 points. Third prize—won by Mr. Peter, Geneva—18 points.

7.—Volunteer Prizes.—20 Whitworth rifles and silver medal of the association, given by the association, shot for with long Enfield, five rounds at 300, 500, and 600 yards.—Winners in order of merit: Sharp, 9th Sussex—17 points; Henry, City of Edinburgh—17; Bainbridge, 1st West York—17; Collinson, 6th North York—16; Pout, 5th Kent—16; Burgh, 10th Gloucester—15; May, 5th Sussex—15; Baker, Bristol—14; Lord Feilding, Flintshire—14; Jackson, 32nd Kent—14; Jenkins, 5th Glamorgan—14; Cocks, St. George's—14; Wood, Edinburgh—14; Caiger, 2nd Middlesex—14; Phillips, 1st Shropshire—14; Plasket, 21st Middlesex—13; Wylie, 1st Lanark—13; Blackburn, Edinburgh—13; Russell, Edinburgh—13; Ross, 7th North York—13.

8. Her Majesty's prize, £250, and gold medal of the association, to the twenty winners as above, and twenty next best shots, at 800, 900, and 1000 yards, 10 rounds at each distance with Whitworth's rifles. This prize was won by Mr. Ross, 7th North York, who scored 24 points; Lord Feilding, 4th Flintshire, scored 21; Mr. Williams, Buckinghamshire, scored 20; Mr. Tinley, 2nd Lancashire, scored 18; Mr. Heaton, 3rd Manchester, scored 18; and so on down to the ignominious 1.

The presentation of the prizes occupied rather more than an hour. Most of the winners were congratulated by the President, the Swiss gentlemen receiving marked attention. They appeared much more excited than the English victors. Some of them could not resist a flourish of the prize rifle over their heads as they carried it off. Most of the volunteers shouldered the arm, and disappeared at the marching step.

Mr. Ross, the winner of the Royal prize, was no stranger by the time Lord Elcho arrived at that announcement. He had appeared and taken off two minor prizes. When called to receive the Queen's prize of £250 the band struck up "See the conquering hero comes," and the applause that had greeted him before was redoubled. He bore his honours with great quietness of manner, receiving the prize just as coolly as he shot for it. He is tall, slight, and very youthful in appearance. He was congratulated on his skill and success by the president, the different members of the council, and a knot of friends; among them was his father, a famous deer-stalker.

It was announced by Lord Elcho that her Majesty has expressed her intention to make the prize she has given an annual one as long as the association exists. He explained, also, that, though Mr. Ross was put down in the official lists as belonging to the 7th North York, and the president had flattered himself that the grand prize had been won by a Yorkshireman, the winner was really much "further north" than Yorkshire. He was a Scotchman. If the English volunteers next year allowed a Scotchman to take the gold medal, it would be a disgrace to them. To this the president rejoined that, if it took a Scotchman to win the prize it had required Yorkshire to train him; which Lord Elcho rebutted by asserting that the youthful Ross had been trained by his father, the deerstalker, considerably north of the Tweed.

The proceedings were closed by a short address from Lord Elcho.

OUR SWISS VISITORS.

On Monday the council of the association entertained at dinner at the Crystal Palace the Swiss riflemen who had competed for the prizes at Wimbledon, and those gentlemen composing the School of Musketry at Hythe who had assisted in carrying out the arrangements during the past week. Lord Elcho presided. Among the company present were Earl Spencer, Colonels Kennedy and Bewes, M. de la Rive, the Swiss Minister, and the Swiss officers who accompanied the riflemen to England. M. Werel, spokesman of the Swiss party, said he could not express the delight they felt at their reception, and of what they had seen in England. At Wimbledon they had seen a shooting-ground unequalled in their own country, and they had fired for the first time with arms which had astonished them. Such weapons used with skill would make any invasion hopeless.

Our visitors have since published a letter in which they declare that "the manner in which our deputation has been received by English riflemen has far exceeded our most sanguine expectation. We undoubtedly knew, when our small party set off on its journey across France to take part in the Wimbledon rifle-match, that we were going to a country which was free and friendly, but not one of us ventured to expect such excessive kindness as that with which we have been greeted at every moment during the last week. We shall ever remember that from the first day of the meeting our little band occupied the place of honour, and that from the beginning to the end of the contest we met with none but friendly faces, and heard no expressions but those of sympathy and goodwill. We cannot enumerate in a letter the names of all those to whom our thanks are due. One word must suffice; it is the English nation whom we thank for their welcome. We recognise in the marks of friendship lavished upon the Swiss that sympathy for freedom which makes England the most faithful ally and the firmest support of our country. We shall tell our fellow-citizens of the welcome and sympathy which the mere name of Swiss obtained for us. There is no period in our history when that sympathy could have been more precious to our country."

They also declare that this rifle-match, though the first of its kind in England, afforded a model of organisation which they should endeavour to imitate. They have evidently the highest admiration for our rifles, and we are glad to state that Mr. Lancaster has presented three of his rifles, and Mr. Fairbairn another, to be competed for by the Swiss at home—in the rifle-match shortly to take place at Stanza.

THE VICTORIA RIFLES AND MISS COUTTS'S PRIZE.

As we have said above, the number of competitors at Wimbledon for Miss Burdett Coutts's prize was so great that the association were compelled to withdraw it, there being no time left for the competition of so large a number. It was therefore suggested that it should be shot for at Kilburn on Tuesday, the arrangements being left in the hands of Lord Elcho.

To the £50 presented by Miss Burdett Coutts was added £25 by the Duke of Wellington. These two sums were divided into three prizes—first, £30; second, £25; third, £20; open to all comers, with any kind of rifle. The distance fired from was 400 yards, and the number of rounds 10; no entrance-fee.

Shortly after 12 o'clock the competition commenced, in the presence of the Duke and Duchess of Wellington, Lord Elcho, Lord Radstock, Major-General Boileau, and a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen. Among the fifty-three competitors were Count de Gendre; Herr Thomann (Swiss); Lieutenant Lacy, 12th Regiment; Captain Archibald, 33rd Foot; Captain Robertson, 9th Perth Rifle Volunteers; Stewart Mackenzie; the Master of Lovat; Major Talbot; Captain Dove, 91st company Lanarkshire Rifles; Corporal Hodder, Grenadier Guards; Captain Greenhill, and several officers and members of the Victoria Rifles; Mr. Treeby, and other civil members of the same corps.

At the termination of the ten rounds the score stood:—Arthur Fellowes, Victoria Rifles, 13 points; David Thornbury, ditto, 13; M. P. Smith, ditto, 13; Thomann (Swiss), 13; Corporal Hodder, Grenadier Guards, 12; Major Talbot, 10; F. Giles, Victoria Rifles, 10; Captain Greenhill, ditto, 10; G. K. Mathewes, ditto, 10; Captain Dove, 91st company, Lanark, 10.

The firing, which had excited the greatest interest throughout, was now most narrowly watched as the four first stepped to the front to fire off the ties. Arthur Fellowes now scored 2; David Thornbury, 1; M. Smith, 0; Thomann, 2. The contest now remained between Fellowes and Thomann, who had both scored 15 points; and the final result was—Thomann, 17 points; Fellowes, 16; Thornbury, 14. It is but justice to the winners of the second and third prizes to state that Herr Thomann fired with a superior Swiss rifle, with shade to

sight and a hair-trigger, whereas they fired with the common Government long Enfield, regulation bore, with a pull of trigger equal to 4lb. They also used the Government ammunition, pattern 1853, as supplied to the corps from the Government stores. The target was 6 feet by 3, with a bull's-eye of eight inches diameter counting three, centre two, uppers and lowers one.

With the ILLUSTRATED TIMES of Saturday last was issued A Large and most Beautifully-engraved

MAP OF EUROPE.

Size, three feet six inches by three feet; uniform with the Maps of London and England and Wales already published in connection with this Journal. A limited number of copies still remain on hand. The price, including the number of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, is 6d., or free by post for eight stamps, 2, Catherine-street, Strand, W.C.

. Purchasers of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES' MAP OF EUROPE are informed that they can have their copies, TASTEFULLY COLOURED, and Mounted on Canvas and Varished, with Roller and Frame complete, price 3s. 6d. each, by applying to the PUBLISHER, 2, Catherine-street, Strand, W.C. If the Colouring is dispensed with the price will be 2s. 6d. each. Specimens in both ways can be seen at the Office of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, 2, Catherine-street, Strand. Coloured Copies in sheets can be forwarded free by post, price 1s. 7d., or the Map sent to the Office with 1s. 1d. will ensure a copy per return free. The territorial additions to the French empire will be shown.

The articles on the "Theory and Practice of the Rifle" will be continued next week.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JULY 14, 1860.

THE CENSUS BILL.

We hardly know any subject into which sectarian bitterness could be introduced with less decency than a purely statistical one; but, then, there is scarce any subject into which the influence of bigotry does not contrive to find its way. Science is frequently endangered and almost incessantly annoyed by it. The geologist, the physiologist, even the astronomer, are severally at the mercy, more or less, of those who, not content with their proper duty of purifying the lives, aspire to dictate the opinions of the community. It is, indeed, an ugly symptom in our age that, while liberalism is said to be increasing, toleration, in the proper sense, is getting less. The orthodox powers no longer use the faggot and the gaol, or, when they do, revocation is reaching them. But in some countries, pluming themselves on their freedom, the Star Chamber has been succeeded by the oppressive energy of a shoal of organisations all over the kingdom. Sometimes there is a temperance society wanting by force to stop our drinking. Sometimes there is a movement to shut us up in the great towns on Sundays. The kind of thing is going on, in one shape or other, everywhere; and the spirit is kept up by violent and rather vulgar religious periodicals from week to week. We cannot get such people to understand that they are really treating English science and English society, as Laud treated the Puritans of Somersetshire, or Charles II. the Covenanters of Scotland; that their favourite bugbear, the Pope himself, is acting on their principles, when he persecutes, or kidnaps, or what not; for they cannot argue that they do not persecute, because they use no physical force. The law does not allow them that, and there is no merit in their abstinence accordingly. Men may persecute by Billingsgate and agitation, as well as by dungeons and chains; and there is less distinction between the two kinds of spiritual coercion than is commonly supposed.

We have said that science is persecuted in this country, according to the means of the bigots. The last science so handled is that of statistics, one of great and increasing value, and one of which a national census is the greatest and most valuable achievement. Some time since we had occasion to show how important, in many points of view, is a census, and how interesting it must necessarily be to the nation which boasts so noble a monument as "Doomsday." We need not repeat the illustrations then brought forward for this purpose. But we cannot refrain from expressing our astonishment at the mighty fuss made about the provision for including in the return the "religious profession" of the people. Statistics as a science is purely impartial. The statistician does not care, as such, what religion you profess; but he knows it is a highly curious and important fact in the life of a nation what religion is in the numerical ascendant in it; and he adds this inquiry to others which he is making for the purpose of gaining knowledge about that nation. No sooner is this done than a hubbub is raised, and the so-called friends of religious liberty concur to assail the philosophical inquirer. Their numbers are far too sacred matters for investigation. Their real strength must not be known. "Procul este profani!" Philosophical inquirer, you must not come here. These great matters are altogether beyond your reach."

We say that a cry like this, whatever specious names it takes, is just such an unphilosophical assertion of power as that of the Temperance Alliance or of the narrowest stickler for a Jewish Sabbath that ever took in the *Record*. It is the merest farce to make it a question of liberty and independence. What harm is done by asking a man whether he is a Presbyterian, a Baptist, a member of the Church of England, or a Plymouth Brother? Is it more tyrannical than asking him what his income is, or making him vaccinate his children, or waking into his cotton mill to see whether his workpeople get a proper dinner-hour? We submit to all these things for the good of the whole State, though they are all interferences with our private arrangements. If we consent to describe ourselves as of a certain persuasion we do no more than register in black and white something that all our neighbours can know if they choose to take the trouble. All persuasions are free, so we run no danger. And it is to be hoped that we are few of us so mean as to be anxious to hide our religious status from being ashamed of it.

The point, however, is chiefly important as bearing on the general temper of the dissenting bodies, which, it seems, have their own reasons for being prominent in their opposition to the clause of the Census Bill under discussion, and their opposition has been entirely successful. The objectionable clause has been withdrawn—not willingly, however, but purely "under pressure." Let us quite understand what such a result means. It means, not merely that certain dissenters fear a comparison with the progress of the Church, but that they are able to get up an agitation which affects their object by appealing to the anti-scientific bigotry of their followers. Spiritual despotism is very rampant in this country just now; and it is just as well, in the cause of freedom, common sense, and knowledge, to sound an alarm against it on proper opportunities.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

AMONG THE PROPERTIES SOLD LATELY IN THE LANDED ESTATES COURT was one situated in the North Riding of Tipperary which forcibly illustrates the improvement that has taken place within a few years in that once famed county. In 1851 this same property was sold for £5000; last Friday it realised £13,040.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK has, on pleas of conscience, refused to obey the law which requires that all clergymen celebrating marriages shall report them to the civil authorities.

LORD SPAMFORD has decided to give up the Quorn Hounds at the close of next season, in consequence of those who hunt in the county declining to subscribe to keep the covers in order and to pay the ordinary damages incurred.

A WORK under the title "One Hundred and Seventy-one Rebellions in the States of the Pope, from 896 to 1859," by Signor C. Rossi, has appeared in Florence.

A MEMORIAL, the only one yet raised to Admiral Blake, has been erected in the Courts of Assize at Taunton. It consists of a portrait bust of Blake, executed by Bully, and executed in the studio of Mr. Papworth, his son-in-law, with a pedestal, and an inscription from the pen of Mr. Hepworth Smith.

CAPTAIN HARRISON, of the Browhills and District Rifle Volunteer Company (Staffordshire), has offered a prize of £100 to any member of his company who shall gain the first prize at any future meeting of the National Rifle Association.

BY THE DEATH OF SIR E. HAYES a vacancy is created in the representation of Donegal.

THE WORKMEN employed in making the repairs now in progress in the Cathedral of Nantes have just discovered in a small vault two leaden boxes, supposed to contain the heart and entrails of Philip Augustus, which, according to a local tradition, were interred in the choir of the building.

LORD DE ROS, the High Constable of the Tower of London, has been making great improvements there by cultivating the ditch and other available spots.

MRS. HARRISON will spend the winter in Russia, and on her return to Paris next spring, it is said, she will adventure a part in French, in a tragedy by M. Lécouré, which is about to be produced at the Odéon Theatre.

ONE OF THE GRANDDEST MILITARY SPECTACLES which perhaps was ever witnessed in Ireland took place last week at the camp of the Curragh, when between 11,000 and 15,000 troops performed a mimic battle, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir George Browne, Commander of the Forces.

THE OUTRAGES committed by certain passengers through Egypt lately have created the liveliest sensation in India, and the Government has taken steps for the punishment of the offenders. The names of the ringleaders are known; some of them are officers of standing.

SOME WORKMEN, while excavating at the Kirk-hill, St. Andrew's, have come upon the ruins of a cruciform chapel.

A GOVERNMENTAL JOURNAL is about to appear at Naples under the title of *Il Risorgimento*. It has published its programme, which may be summed up thus—*alliance with Piedmont and liberty*.

THE REV. F. D. MAURICE, Chaplain of Lincoln's Inn, has been appointed to the district church of Vere-street, Marylebone.

ACCORDING TO DR. BERNIS, of Kentucky, ten per cent of the deaf and dumb, five per cent of the blind, and fifteen per cent of the idiots, admitted into the various charitable institutions of the United States, are the issue of marriages of first cousins.

A MEETING has been held in DARLINGTON—the metropolis of Quakerism—for the purpose of organising a rifle corps, and a committee appointed to carry out the arrangements.

A HORSE AND CATTLE SHOW FOR SAVOY is to take place at Chambéry shortly, the Emperor desiring to have an opportunity of appreciating the resources of his new possessions.

A NEW ROAD FOR HORSES AND CARRIAGES, from the gate opposite Kensington turnpike across the gardens, terminating opposite the new church in the Bayswater-road, is in course of construction.

AN OSTEND LETTER states that the Prince Regent of Prussia will arrive there in the beginning of August, and remain till the arrival of Queen Victoria, who is expected towards September, on her way to Berlin, to be present at the baptism of her new grandchild, whose birth will probably take place during the present month.

THE REMAINS OF A ROMAN THEATRE, and a temple dedicated to Apollo, have just been discovered near Pierrefonds (Oise), under the detritus of the forest. These ruins belong to the best period of Roman art. The bas-reliefs are said to be admirably executed.

THE COUNT DE CHAMBORE has arrived at Munich to see his sister, the Duchess of Parma.

ST. JAMES'S CHAPEL, York-street, St. James's-square, has been sacrilegiously entered and plundered of the costly communion plate, sacred vestments, &c. The thieves also damaged and defiled the sacred edifice.

THE CROPS have greatly improved lately, and a full average growth is confidently anticipated from all well-farmed land. On wet, low, or ill-drained soils the damage is considerable. Almost all the hay has been got in, in fair condition, and, altogether, prospects are brightening.

A VERY EXCITING MEETING OF THE UNION BANK, the first which has been held since the Pullinger frauds, took place on Wednesday. After a warm debate, the directors' report was adopted, and the usual officers of the bank were re-elected.

THE NEXT QUINQUENNIAL CENSUS OF FRANCE will take place in 1861, and will include the new annexations.

THE IRISH NEWSPAPERS have begun once more to bemoan the utter failure of the potato crop, we trust with little reason.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF NAPOLEON'S DEATH was celebrated in the Catholic Church of James-town, St. Helena. M. Gauthier de Rougemont, guardian of the Emperor's tomb, was present.

IT IS REPORTED that Sir Robert Peel is about to give up his stud.

THE MOORISH EMBASSY lately visited Woolwich Arsenal, and through a ruse in the casting of a gun his Excellency Mohammed Shamee got flushed with the molten metal and his robe set on fire. Fortunately the conflagration was speedily extinguished. His Excellency has placed £200 in the hands of the Lord Mayor for charitable purposes.

THE ITALIAN JOURNALS speak highly of the success of Miss Anna Whitty at Leghorn.

MAZZINI arrived at Palermo on the 23rd ult.

THE PRUSSIAN GOVERNMENT, says the *Hull Packet*, has entered into a contract with an English firm for a large quantity of shot and shell.

A PARTY OF GUIDES OF CHAMOUNI planted the French flag on the summit of Mont Blanc on the 5th inst., with cries of "Vive l'Empereur!"

GENERAL GARIBALDI has just declined an offer of service from Colonel Carras (one of the leaders pounced on at Paris on the eve of the President's departure, an exile ever since), simply not to afford the ghost of a pretext for French intermeddling.

The *Indian Lancet*, in a letter from Dr. Donaldson, recommends the web of the common spider as an unfailing remedy for certain fevers. This remedy, it was observed, was used a century back by the poor in the fens of Cambridgeshire, and by Sir James McGregor in the West Indies.

LORD CAMPDEN and MR. POPE HENNESSY.—An action has been entered at the suit of Mr. John George MacCarthy against Mr. John Pope Hennessy, M.P. Mr. MacCarthy acted as agent for Lord Campden at the recent contest for the county on the return of Mr. Hennessy. His Lordship has, it is stated, repudiated the agency of the hon. member, and Mr. MacCarthy is now compelled to proceed against Mr. Hennessy for the recovery of large sums spent in his onerous capacity.

COMMERCIAL FAILURES.—Heavy failures occurred in the leather trade last week, the largest being of the house of Stentfield, Laurence, and Mortimore, whose liabilities amount to about one million, and whose failure has caused the loss of many others in the same trade. It would appear that they almost monopolised the trade, and at the close of the Crimean war were not only very heavy losers by the fall which took place in leather, but also by their extensive dealings with other houses in the same trade, whose losses could not be met by being bolstered up by means of extensive bill transactions. Compensation and interest paid on the renewal of these bills have gone on till the amount became so large as to alarm those who were in the habit of discounting them, and when a determination was at length made to curtail the accommodation the crash came, and the house collapsed. The following list has been obliged to succumb—namely, Messrs. Stentfield, Laurence, and Mortimore, £1,100,000; Smith, Patent, and Co., £200,000; P. W. Mortimore, £80,000; Laurence, Mortimore, and Co., £200,000; John Baker, £6,000; W. C. Munday, £50,000; Mr. Parker, £100,000; A. Waring, £30,000; D. Carpenter, £25,000; J. Herbert, Smith, & Co., £150,000; T. Gibson, £10,000; Mr. Barton, of Liverpool, £150,000. As the dividends on the estate will depend greatly on the favourable or unfavourable state of their stock-in-trade, it has been determined to dispose of it at once, so that no undue pressure shall take place in the leather market for several weeks. The following failures have also taken place—Messrs. W. Evans and Co., J. G. Sullivan, Joseph Hooper, Hooper and Partners, and W. J. Armstrong.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

If the grouse upon the moors could know what is doing in the House of Commons they would flap their wings with joy, for as matters stand at present there seems but small chance that the House will rise before September. There is, at first, the Bankruptcy Bill to pass, 400 clauses of which still remain to be examined in Committee, and this Lord Palmerston says he will pass, however long the House may sit, and we all know that he is the man to do it if he has set his mind upon it. Next, there are seven books of miscellaneous estimates to get through, and, as these are the most debatable of all the money votes, it will take at least a clear fortnight to get through them if no hindrance be interposed; but Sir John Lubbock threatens us with a motion to stop the supplies until another paper tax bill shall have passed, and Lord Farnham has a notice of motion on the books relating to the same vexed question. Neither of these gentlemen will succeed, but their motions will lead to a great deal of talk and stoppage of progress. Further, there are some sixty orders of the day to be disposed of; and last, not least, the Appropriation Bill, which usually runs through the House at a gallop, is to be made a subject of fierce contention. All will come right at last, no doubt; but it seems clear that, with all these questions, matters, and things before the House, the Session will stretch out very nearly, if not quite, to the 1st of September.

A serious accident happened to one of the clauses of the Bankruptcy Bill. It was a clause providing that substitutes should be appointed during part of the year for the Commissioners, which substitutes should be paid out of the Exchequer. Whilst this clause was under discussion, Lord Palmerston and two other members of the Government went to consult upon some matters into a room at the back of the Speaker's chair, and when they were there the division occurred; but, as the door was shut, they knew nothing of it until all was over. The Government was defeated by two. If they had been present the clause would have been carried by one. Some are wicked enough to say that the Government wished to exclude the clause, and that these three went away with the purpose to get it excluded. The Attorney-General, it is said, was obliged under pressure to insert the clause, but was glad to have it defeated.

There is no doubt now that Disraeli has taken the pension of £2000 a year, as it appears in the accounts just published.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

"MACMILLAN'S" is rapidly becoming more generally interesting. The plan of confining the contents of the magazine to certain heavy subjects, treated exclusively by writers who, however good, lose much of their individuality and free thought in the clique to which they are attached, seems to have been given up. The result will be beneficial both to the public and the proprietors. There are several noticeable papers this month. Mr. Alexander Smith, king of the "spasmodic" school of poetry, throws aside his lyre, and, in good, true, wholesome prose, gives a capital description of an Irish fair which he attended, and of a fight thereof of which he was a witness. Mr. T. Hughes, Captain-Commanding, 19th Middlesex, has an able paper called "The Volunteers' Catechism," in which the duties and position of the volunteers are clearly defined, and the movement spoken of in terms of warm and hearty praise. "Tom Brown at Oxford" is continued with spirit, and has, this month, a transatlantic parallel in one Mr. Medlow, whose "Reminiscences of American College Life," as written by Mr. Carl Henson, do not render us particularly enamoured of Mr. Cousin's system of scholastic training. The Rev. F. Maurice contributes a warm eulogy on the late Mrs. Jameson in a paper which is principally devoted to the plea for the Female School of Art; and M. Aurelio Laffi has an article on Garibaldi. There are three sets of verses this month—"The Post," a humorous political squib from the Italian; a translation from Lamartine by Mr. Tennyson's brother, the Rev. C. Turner, which is simple and graceful; and an anonymous poem, "All's Well," which is undoubtedly the gem of the number.

The *English Woman's Journal* is about an average number. It is so essentially a periodical "with a purpose" that its reiterated doctrines and examples grow wearying to those who are not specially and deeply interested in its aim. Every month furnishes us with the biography of some wonderful woman, with serious articles treating of the female social position in a clever but a querulous tone, and little bits of verse which bear the stamp of feminine composition. *Toujours perdrix!* There is an announcement that the September and subsequent numbers will be printed by female compositors.

The *Journal of Psychological Medicine* continues its useful career. The most interesting papers in the present issue are on the reform of lunatic asylums (in which the celebrated "free-air" system is commented on), on the asylums of Italy, France, and Germany, and on the relations of mind and brain. The works of a "Medical Psychologist of the Seventeenth Century" also furnish the groundwork of an amusing review.

The *Welcome Guest* goes on bravely, though we miss the graceful poetic contributions of its late editor, Mr. R. Brough. A serial story, "The Shipchandler," by Mr. Sala, is the staple attraction of the present part.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

Madame Delphine Fix has arrived, and is playing at the St. James's in a most charming comedy, "Les Pâtes de Mouches," in which she is admirably supported by M. Paul Deraux. A slight *leer du rideau*, called "Duchess or Nothing," has been produced at the Olympic.

A LADY PILFERER.—Our readers will remember the very painful charge which was preferred at the Lambeth Police Court against a lady named Feltham, of having committed a robbery at a fair which was held in the early part of last month at the Crystal Palace. This unhappy lady was tried at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday, and found guilty. Some of the jury, it appears, were of opinion that the prisoner picked up the articles which she was charged with having stolen, there being some doubt as to whether they had not fallen from the stall to which she was going; but the Judge explained, even if she had done this, she would have been guilty of larceny unless she endeavoured to discover the owner of the property. The jury copied their verdict with a strong recommendation to mercy, and the prisoner was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in Newgate.

SHAVING THE PUBLIC.—The Commander of the *Royal Albert*, contradicts two "shaves" that have gone the round of the papers about the vessel. One is that a lady, in passing a ladies' gun on the main deck, allowed her crinoline to come in contact with the trigger-line, which caused the gun to explode, and blow an A.L.'s arm off. The other was to the effect that a line child, nineteen months old, was hit by its unnatural parent in the crinoline; that for two days everything was done to ascertain who the unnatural party was; and then, nothing having been ascertained beyond the fact of the child's being a line boy, he was *tried* and *found* guilty, and placed on the books as *Child Freemason*. A poor fellow! He is a line boy by the accidental discharge of a gun during the *Royal Albert's* stay at Queen'sberry, but not in the ridiculous way described.

ST. GEORGE'S-IN-THE-EAST.—There is a story going the round of the press, to the effect that the conduct of the people at the conclusion of the service at the Church of St. George-in-the-East. The clergymen and chorists were allowed to leave the church without molestation of any kind, and without even any of the jeering and hooting to which they have long been accustomed. The usual mixed multitude was present, numbering some 1200 or 1300 people, and the service was as stockily interrupted as it has invariably been for months past by the greater part of the congregation coughing and shouting the responses. About twenty policemen in uniform, under the direction of Inspector Allison, were placed in different parts of the church to prevent anything like open violence, the maintenance of a decorum being wholly beyond their power; and some seventy more were stationed outside in the vicinity, ready to act in case of need. A negotiation has, it is said, been going on for three or four weeks to the Rev. Bryan King to exchange his living with one of the vicars of the diocese, in Essex.

MRS. VAN DER BEEK.—Mrs. Van der BEEK, the wife of the late Mr. Van der BEEK, has been the subject of a public subscription for the relief of her family. The subscription was opened by Mr. H. S. Hodgson, Rector of Rotherhithe, and was conducted by Mr. H. S. Hodgson. The subscription was opened by Mr. H. S. Hodgson, Rector of Rotherhithe, and was conducted by Mr. H. S. Hodgson. The subscription was opened by Mr. H. S. Hodgson, Rector of Rotherhithe, and was conducted by Mr. H. S. Hodgson.

Literature.

Autobiographical Recollections. By the late CHARLES ROBERT LESLIE, R.A. Edited, with a Prefatory Essay on Leslie as an Artist, and Selections from his Correspondence, by TOM TAYLOR, Esq., Editor of the "Autobiography of Haydon." J. Murray, 1860.

These memorials of an eminent artist will not, perhaps, be less grateful to the reader for the apparent deficiency that, through the "innate modesty," as the editor observes of Leslie's disposition, "the part directly occupied by himself and his pictures is small in comparison with that devoted to his contemporaries and friends." Yet we soon seem to feel, according to the French proverb, that the writer shows us what he was by telling us whom he lived with, and that his mind and condition seem quite reflected in the society and the friends to which he attached himself, in his appreciation of their characteristics, and in the kindly and respectful tone in which he deals with them, dwelling, avowedly, "chiefly on the persons he can praise, and in them, not on the faults and foibles that are more or less common to men, but the merits that are rare, and on which alone their claims to distinction rest." And, certainly, his dominant sentiments and maxims of life come forward in the most graceful manner, and with the clearest stamp of honesty, from being incidentally and equally introduced in narratives relating to companions and acquaintances. It is thus, for instance, he shows his estimation of physical studies in the sentence—"If proof were wanted of the superiority of Chantrey's mind, it would be found in the fact that his most intimate acquaintances were such men as Davy and Wollaston; and that such men delighted in his conversation. He, on the other hand, delighted to learn from them, for, like every artist who deserves the title of an artist, he was greatly interested in all natural science." How Leslie realised in himself or attempted to realise this principle he scarcely hints; but in some particulars furnished by his son to the editor, which agreeably fill up the picture of his manners and habits, we are told, "He took a great interest in astronomy. His knowledge of this science was very slight, but the pleasure he had in the various appearances in the heavens was unbounded, so much so, that he used to say an eclipse appeared to take place on purpose for his pleasure. He once said to me that he thought it very likely that part of our happiness in the next life would be derived from finding out the wonders of the creation which are hidden to us here." So he says of Sir Joshua Reynolds in an unaffected tone of gradually rising earnestness—"As a man he was most amiable. It seemed scarcely possible that the serenity of his temper could be ruffled. I saw him often, but I never saw him in an ill-humour. Though inclined to taciturnity he had a great deal of natural drollery, and the soundness of his sense may be shown by a single sentence, whether it originated with him or whether he quoted it: 'Whatever is worth doing,' he said, 'by way of example, must be worth doing for its own sake.' What a contrast is this to the sophistry of Horace Walpole, who says—'I go to church sometimes, in order to induce my servants to go to church. I am no hypocrite. I do not go in order to persuade them to believe what I may not believe myself. A good moral sermon may instruct and benefit them. I only set them an example of listening, not of believing.' There is still more character in the apposite reflection about Constable: 'We talk of untimely deaths, but all deaths I believe to be merciful, for God, no doubt, takes every one of us at the time best for ourselves. The bodily sufferings that immediately preceded Constable's death, though acute, were of very short duration, and he was spared a world of anxiety which the thought of his young children must have occasioned had he lingered on a sick bed with no hopes of recovery—anxiety which, with such feelings as his, would have been extreme.' In acknowledging the assistance he himself received from Wilkie in early studies he writes, 'I felt convinced that he, like all first-rate men, had nothing more seriously at heart than the advance of every member of his profession. As well, indeed, might we expect to find a sincerely religious man indifferent to the advancement of his piety as to meet with a really great artist indifferent to the advancement of art.'

The particulars given about persons with whom he was connected sometimes expand to very full and lively descriptions: as in that of Wilkie's manners, in which there were many oddities, founded, it appears, on a too anxious desire to do and look like other people. In general these descriptions come forward from a large background of anecdotes, chiefly conversational, which are spirited, entertaining, and worldly-wise, less desultory than they appear at first, and therefore not wearisome, an enforced vein of reflection happily connecting them, as in a paragraph about Sir Walter Scott and his liking to walk with a dog, to form, he said, a foreground in his landscape. In all Leslie's remarks on paintings there is as little reference to technicalities as there could have been in any lay critic; his manner is most opposite to that displayed in his anecdote of Constable:—"I spoke to him one day of his touching picture of a sailor taking leave of his wife or sweetheart; and he said, 'I am glad you like it; it was painted with Japanese gold size.'"

His freedom from professional egotism, so consonant with the literary tastes which he cultivated and connected with his art, appears in his complaisant citation of Rogers's dictum, that the highest of intellectual entertainments was often comprised in an hour at a theatre; also, in a manner, in his liberal acknowledgment of the obligation of art to the engravers, and his complaint of their exclusion from Academic honours.

The chief events of the author's life, especially concerning his early "vocation" and struggles, are told simply and frankly, without any annoying self-esteem, self-suspicion, or discontent. After a few chapters the autobiography seems only of service to link together the various observations upon other men, or to avouch their grievances. Some important events, indeed, are referred to with a brevity that is perhaps decorous, but rather distressing to our curiosity.

In editing, for a second time, the autobiography of a painter, Mr. Taylor has shown a full sympathy with the character and tastes of his subject, of which the deficiency in his treatment of Haydon, if, perhaps, justified by his reflections on the case, could not but tend to damp the reader's interest and gratification. He speaks warmly of Leslie's character, of his "valuing good taste and moderation as much in art as in manners, being averse to exclusive theories or loud-sounding self-assertion; closing a peaceful, successful, honoured life by the calm and courageous death of a Christian, and leaving pictures stamped in every line with good taste, chastened humour, and graceful sentiment—pictures which it makes us happier, gentler, and better to look upon—pictures which help us to love good books more, and to regard our fellow-creatures with kinder eyes. It is pleasant (he adds) that so many of them should have found a home among the mills of Lancashire and the smoky forges and grimy workshops of Birmingham. They are really appreciated in such places, and eminently calculated to counteract the ignominious influences of industrial occupation by their inborn refinement, their liberal element of loveliness, their sweet sentiment of nature, their literary associations, and their genial humour." Altogether, Leslie's art is presented as eminently suited to the requirements of modern days, when painting "aims only to please and refine," and not at formally instructing us, still less at impressing on unlettered minds, in conjunction with grand architectural monuments, a conception of religious mysteries.

THE DISTURBANCES IN NEW ZEALAND.—We have just heard from the *South Island*, up to April 29. There has been no more serious news. The military force has retired from the presence of the troops, and the civil and military forces are now in the hands of the civil and military forces. The military force has retired from the presence of the troops, and the civil and military forces are now in the hands of the civil and military forces. The military force has retired from the presence of the troops, and the civil and military forces are now in the hands of the civil and military forces.

THE MONSTER GONG-DRUM.

At the contests between the various brass bands at the Crystal Palace during the past week a new feature in the performance was the introduction of a monster gong-drum manufactured on the largest scale yet attempted with instruments of percussion by Mr. Henry Distin, Great Newport-street, Leicester-square. Its diameter is 7 feet, while its height from the ground is upwards of 10 feet. The frame is composed of 108 pieces of mahogany firmly fitted together, while to secure the great tension necessary the employment of 30 strong bolts has been resorted to. It is anticipated that the great body of sound emanating from this enormous instrument might have been distinctly heard above the clash which the whole assembly of bands could have been able to produce. A reference to our Engraving will give a more distinct idea of this extraordinary instrument and the effect which it is calculated to produce.

LAUNCH OF THE SILLOTH LIFE-BOAT.

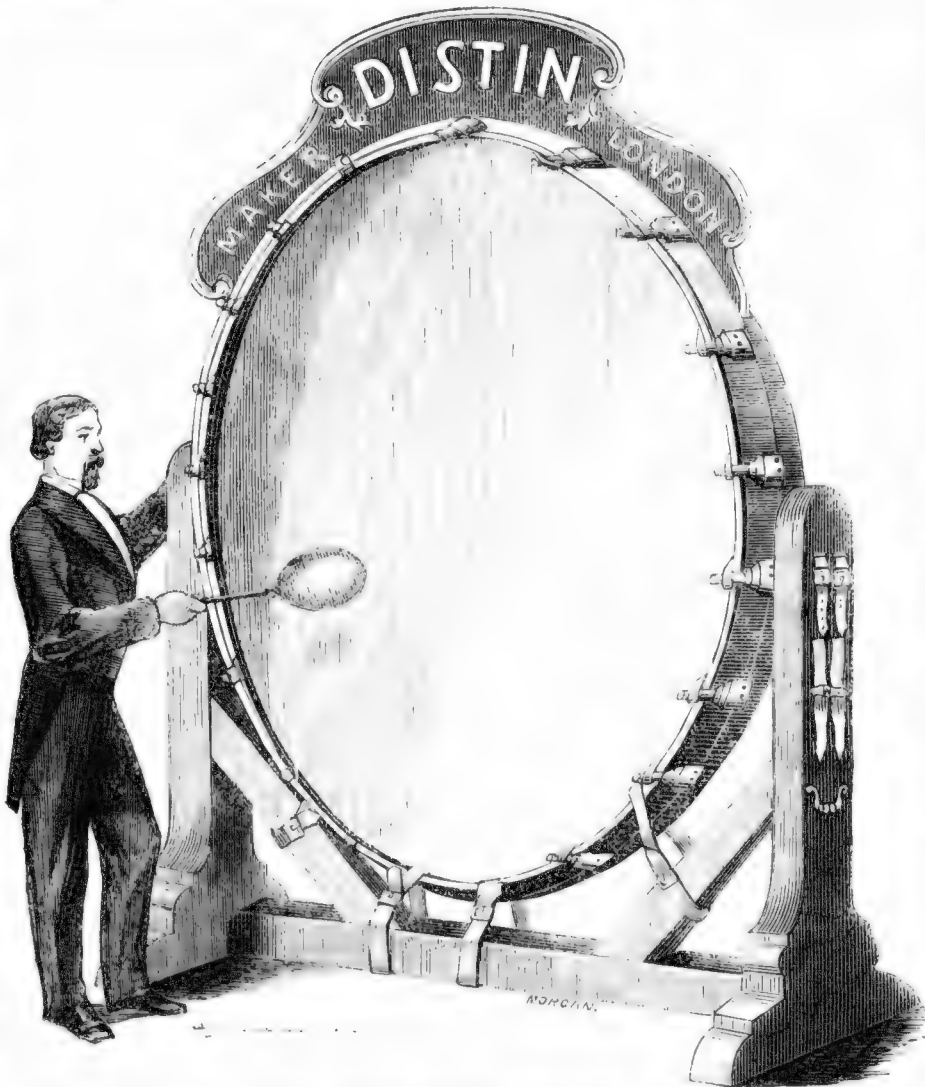
The town and harbour of Silloth, on the west coast of Cumberland, distant from Carlisle some twenty-one miles, though of recent origin, are rising rapidly into importance. The channel between Whitehaven and Port Carlisle (about twelve miles north of Silloth) is extremely difficult to navigate in rough weather, and vessels, unless in charge of skilled pilots, are but too apt to founder on its dangerous sandbanks. Miss Burdett Coutts, on being applied to on the occasion of some recent wreck, generously consented to present the port of Silloth with a life-boat, built by Forrest; and on June 25 the ceremony of launching the new boat was gone through.

The Carlisle and Silloth Railway Company ran cheap excursions on the auspicious occasion. The weather, however, which makes or mars such holiday events, was about as bad as weather could be. Dull, heavy clouds floated overhead, as if intent on some comfortless errand, and gave many proofs of their unwelcome presence by discharging plentiful showers. Still, the rain did not deter every one from going to Silloth; for, let the weather be as it may, there is always a sprinkling of adventurers ready for any emergency. On arriving at Silloth there was a general rush towards where the life-boat was stationed. Flags were displayed from the roofs of the inns and other elevations, and the scene, though sadly shorn by the rough day of its anticipated attractions, was yet lively. The life-boat was on its carriage in front of the Solway Hotel, and was ready manned with its complement of eight hands. A couple of flags fluttered aloft. The men were fully equipped in their cork jackets, which are made of thick bars of cork encircling the body, and keep it afloat in case of accident or if the men are obliged to take the water. The size and solidity of the boat and the strength of the carriage attracted general attention. Many persons appeared to have imagined that the boat was a light structure which might easily be carried on men's shoulders, like an Indian's canoe; but when they found that it required six stout horses to draw it and the broad-wheeled carriage on which it rested their preconceived notions were entirely changed. Shortly before four o'clock the equipage was set in motion, and proceeded towards Skinburness, followed by the crowd. On arriving at the Cote Lighthouse a couple of flags indicated the spot where the gallant boat was to make her first formal venture on the waves. The tide was almost at the full, and, there being a strong on-shore wind, it was felt that the day, however disagreeable for sightseers, was tolerably well suited to the forthcoming ceremony. The carriage having been run down to the beach, the tackling was unfastened, and the boat gradually slid from the slips and dipped into the advancing tide. She was not, however, run far enough in, and the stern was left high and dry on the beach; but a few men set their shoulders to the end and the boat was speedily floated. Mr. Geddes, superintendent of the life-buoys of the Solway, then dashed a bottle against the receding stern, and christened the boat the *Angela*. The name was given in compliment to Miss Burdett

Coutts, by whose generous aid the coast of Cumberland has been provided with one of these invaluable life-preservers. The brave little ship then yielded to the oars and her helm. After running out to sea her head was turned to the wind, and she made for the jetty, where she arrived in about an hour. The boat then sailed round the dock, and was safely placed under the shelter of the house which has been built for her—ready at any moment for the unhappy emergency which may call for her services.

The boat cost £135, and is thirty feet in length, seven feet broad, three feet three inches deep, is rowed by six oars, and weighs about thirty cwt. It is built on the most approved model, and is provided with air-chambers, relieving-tubes, draining-tier and pump, by which leakage can be pumped out by one of the crew while afloat. Outside are festooned life-lines, to which persons in the water may cling till they can be got into the boat, and two of which may be used as stirrups to climb inside.

Like the other life-boats of the National Life-boat Institution it has a Coxswain Superintendent, with a fixed



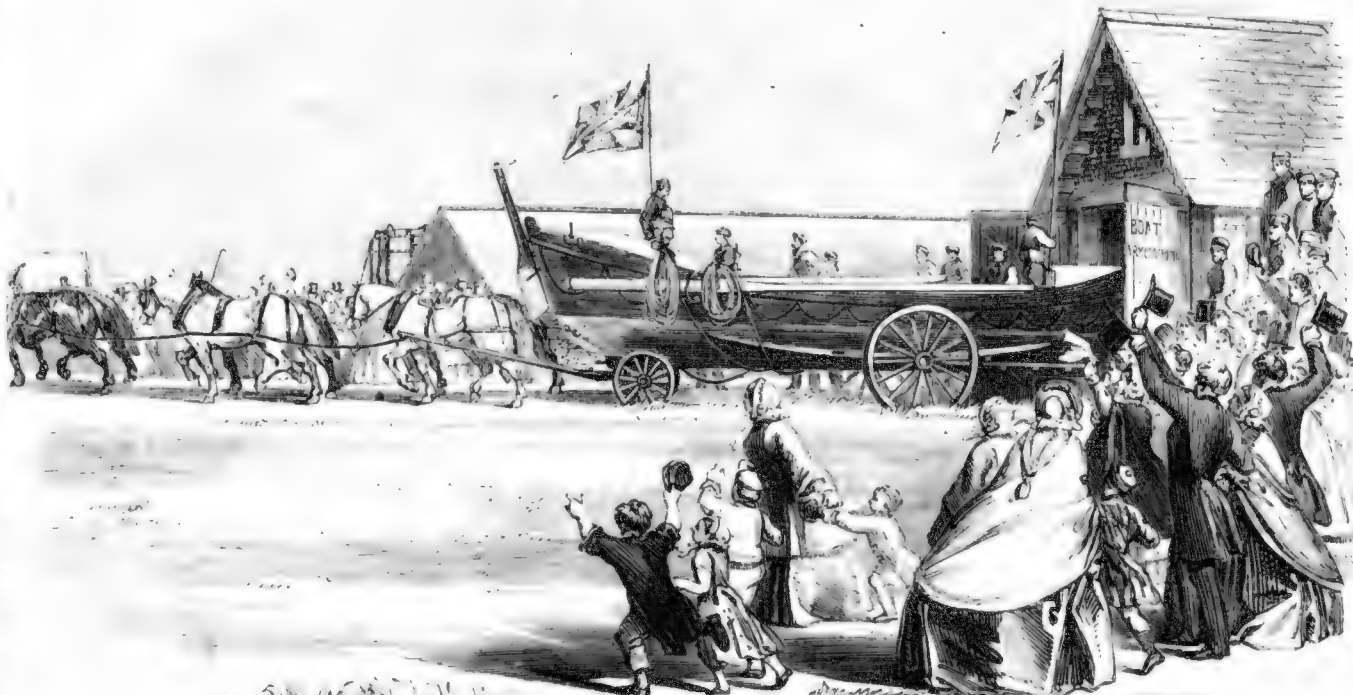
MR. DISTIN'S MONSTER GONG-DRUM.

annual salary of £8. It will be regularly taken afloat for exercise once every quarter, fully manned and equipped, so that the crew may be familiar with her properties and proper management. On every occasion of exercise, the men are paid 6s. each in stormy weather, and 3s. each in fine weather; and on every occasion of going off to a wreck to save life, each of the crew receive 10s. per day and £1 by night, and equal shares of any local subscriptions which may be raised to reward any special act of gallantry or exertion. The crew are provided with life-belts. The coxswain is required to keep a list of all the life-boat stores, to be examined once a quarter by the local committee, in order to their being repaired, or replaced, if in the least degree in a doubtful condition. The boat to be kept on her carriage, in the boathouse, with all her gear in her ready for use, except articles which require to be secured from damp. Signals are agreed upon for calling the life-boat's crew together; and immediately on intimation of a wreck, or a vessel in distress, the coxswain is to muster his crew, launch his boat, and proceed to her assistance. The part which the Royal National Life-boat Institution takes in the noble work of assisting the shipwrecked is to build, station, and maintain in repair life-boats of the most perfect description; to furnish them with all necessary appurtenances, including houses to preserve them in and carriages for their conveyance to the spots where their services may be

daily papers:—"Most of the male population were absent, and only the old and infirm were in the town. The Pa Suba was at Ro Manetleh, on the Port Lokoah road. The attacking party numbered about 300 or 400 men, and for the most part were armed with cutlasses. They divided themselves into small companies, and assigned different parts of the town to each division. One of them attacked the mission premises, another the British traders, and they were scattered wherever they thought to find plunder. The special objects of attack were the British subjects residing at Magbelli, in revenge for our Government having promised, as they alleged, to aid and assist the Massimarahs with arms and ammunition. The barbarous people showed no regard to the persons or property of the missionary party. After forcibly entering the dwelling-house they seized the Rev. Mr. Wiltshire and his wife, and stripped them. One man aimed with a cutlass at Mr. Wiltshire, but happily fell short. Another pointed his gun at his breast and demanded his coat, which was of course given up. Mrs. Wiltshire was then seized, tied, and dragged to the waterside, and then forced into a canoe, with the intention to carry her across the river; but the canoe, being too crowded with prisoners and not having been caulked, was swamped, and sank immediately on attempting to shove off from the beach. All, however, came safely ashore. Providentially, just at this juncture there was heard a sound of musket shots in the distance.

This proceeded from a few Sierra Leone traders and others from Illobuntog, who were coming to the rescue. The Kossoshs at once left their prisoners and retreated, but not without some loss on their side. Mrs. Wiltshire was left tied in the bush, and, after some moments of anxious suspense, was rescued from her perilous condition by a Sierra Leone trader. In the meantime other parts of the town had been given up to plunder. Mr. Thensted, an English trader, was robbed of all his goods, and had his shirt stripped from his back, but happily escaped from his captors and from further personal indignities. One of the mission boatmen, named Bucknor, who was ill at the time of the attack, was cut across the belly and killed. A schoolboy about eight years old, refusing to leave the mission-yard and go with the Kossoshs, was killed on the spot, his head being severed from his body. Another of the school-children (a little girl) was drowned along with many others in a canoe which, from being too much crowded with prisoners, filled and went down with all on board. The precise number is not known."

The Quittah Fort had been abandoned by the British Government.



LAUNCH OF A LIFE-BOAT AT SILLOTH.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY W. BANNISTER, CARLISLE.)

called for; and further, to provide, through the instrumentality of local committees, for their proper management, and the occasional exercise of their crews; to confer honorary rewards in the form of medals and votes of thanks, and also to grant pecuniary remuneration to all persons who, at the risk of their own lives, save, or attempt to save, those of others on board vessels wrecked, or in distress, upon any part of the coast of the United Kingdom.

ARRIVAL OF THE "GREAT EASTERN."
The *Quebec Gazette* of June 29 publishes the following despatch:—

"Sandy Hook, 10.30 a.m.
"The steam-ship *Great Eastern* came into the lightship at 7.30 this morning. She left the Needles at ten a.m. on the 17th. With the exception of two days she has experienced fine weather. She has forty-two passengers, among whom are several of the directors of the company. "She steamed the entire passage, ranging from 25½ to 333 miles per twenty-four hours.

"Her engines were not stopped until she was off St. George's Shoal, for soundings. She came in a route south-east direct to the lightship. She was received on reaching the lightship by Captain Cosgrove with a salute and the dipping of colours, and as the mist blew away all the vessels in sight set their bunting and cheered her. She now lies near the bar, and will not pass over until three p.m. She is drawing twenty-seven feet water aft, and will be trimmed to an even keel before crossing.

"The ship's bottom is very foul, and an allowance of at least two knots an hour should be made on that account. The distance from Southampton, as usually steamed, is 3190 miles, but to avoid the ice she went further south. The following is the number of miles made per day:—17th June, 285; 18th, 296; 19th, 296; 20th, 275; 21st, 304; 22nd, 280; 23rd, 302; 24th, 299; 25th, 325; 26th, 333; 27th, 254.

"From one of her passengers we obtained the following information:—"There are thirty-eight passengers and eight guests, all in the best of health, and have been so during the entire voyage, which has been particularly fine, and one full of interest. It has demonstrated the *Great Eastern's* superiority as a seagoing vessel, and the excellence and reliability of her machinery. The highest speed attained was 14½ knots."

A MISSIONARY STATION ATTACKED BY SAVAGES.

The *American*, from the west coast of Africa, brings us intelligence of a dreadful outrage upon the inhabitants of Magbelli, near Cape Coast Castle, on the morning of the 14th of June. The following are the details as we find them in the

MR. W. E. FROST, A.R.A.

MR. W. E. FROST—born at Wandsworth, near London, in 1810—is one of those few painters who have been educated, from an early age, with an express view to the pursuit of Art as a profession. Having given signs as a boy of great talent for design, he was introduced, when he was just commencing his sixteenth year, to Mr. Etty, who recommended him to study at Mr. Sass's academy in Bloomsbury—an excellent institution, conducted in the style of the well-known art-school directed by Mr. Gandish, and frequented by Clive Newcome. Many parents, finding that their son had an irresistible inclination for painting, would have apprenticed him forthwith to an apothecary or articulated him to a lawyer—a course which would not have prevented him from becoming a painter sooner or later, and which would simply have had the effect of making him waste a good many of the best years of his life. William Edward Frost, however, went straight from school to Mr. Sass's academy, where he studied assiduously for three years. At the expiration of that time he had made sufficient progress not only to be admitted as a student at the Royal Academy (an honour which, we believe, it is not very difficult to obtain), but to commence the practice of his profession in its lowest but most lucrative branch—that of portrait-painting. Mr. Frost was now only nineteen years of age; but—

aux âmes bien nées
La valeur n'attend point le nombre des années,

and the young artist met with so much success that before long he had more commissions on hand than he could easily execute. In the course of fourteen years—from 1829 to 1843—he is said to have painted upwards of three hundred portraits; so that his sitters, if collected together, would really form a very respectable crowd. In 1839, however, growing tired, no doubt, of representing the countenances of his, for the most part, uninteresting fellow-creatures, he painted a "Prometheus Bound"—the subject given by the Royal Academy to the competitors for its gold medal. The prize was gained by Mr. Frost, to whom the bound Prometheus was, so to speak, the anti-symbol of liberty; for he now began to shake off the chains of portrait-painting, and soon afterwards threw them off altogether. In 1843 he entered himself for the great Westminster Hall cartoon stakes, and gained a third-class prize of £100. The subject of Mr. Frost's prize cartoon was "Una Adorned by Fauns," which was admired both for its drawing and for its excellent composition. The same year Mr. Frost exhibited at the Royal Academy a "Christ Crowned with Thorns," which was considered one of the best pictures in the gallery, and which was selected for purchase by the chief prizeholder of the Art-Union. He now left portrait-painters to beginners, or to confirmed portrait-painters—artists too frequently fit for nothing else—and devoted himself exclusively to that style of art in which he has since gained special celebrity. In 1844 he contributed to the exhibition of the Royal Academy "Nymphs Dancing" and "A Bacchanalian Dance;" in 1845, "Sabrina" (afterwards engraved by the Art-Union); in 1846, "Diana and Actæon." The "Diana and Actæon" was generally looked upon as the finest work Mr. Frost had produced, and it gained for him his election—which took place the same year—as an Associate of the Academy.

In 1847 Mr. Frost exhibited "Ana and the Wood-Nymphs," which was purchased by her Majesty. His "Euphrosyne" of the following year was a picture he had been commissioned to paint for Mr. Bicknell. Consequently he was unable to sell it to the Queen, who, however, was so much charmed with the principal group that she gave Mr. Frost an order to copy this portion of the picture expressly for her.

Among the best-known of the works painted by Mr. Frost during the last ten or twelve years may be mentioned the "Disarming of Cupid," now in the possession of Prince Albert, who ordered it for his private gallery, and "Andromeda" (both these pictures were exhibited in 1850); "Wood-Nymphs" and "Hylas" (1851); "May Morning" (1852); "Chastity" (1854). "Spenser and Milton in their minor poems," says a writer in "Men of the Time," from which most of the facts in the above sketch of Mr. Frost's life have been derived, "have throughout been the sources whence he has drawn suggestions, allegorical or literal, for his graceful wreaths of fair and delicate forms. No living artist has been an equally indefatigable student of the living model, and within the walls of the Academy. For twenty-six years—during the long period of his devotion to portrait-painting for a maintenance, and during that which succeeded of freedom and high reputation—he has remained uniformly constant to that study."

Mr. Frost continues to paint wood-nymphs, naiads, and syrens of all kinds. He has sent some charming "Syrens" (which is at once the subject and the title of the picture) to the Academy Exhibition of the present year. They are very beautiful, fairylike syrens certainly, and the worst that can be said of them is that they are very much like a great many other beautiful and fairylike syrens that Mr. Frost has painted. But there is exquisite tiny enchantment about Mr. Frost's pencil, "and his brushes," as Mr. Thornbury says, "seem made of hummingbirds' plumes, so dainty is their manipulation."

RAILWAY TRANSPORT OF TROOPS.

THE conveyance of a military force by railway is not a novel operation, but it is generally confined to infantry, and the number of rank and file conveyed at once rarely equals that of the passengers by many an excursion train, while the troops have the advantage of being under perfect discipline at the beginning and end of the journey. The conveyance of infantry is comparatively an easy task, and the time required may be soon calculated; but artillery, which includes so much besides men, heavy guns, ammunition-waggons, and horses, that must all be kept together, separation from either making the rest useless, is more difficult to deal with. If the movement is complicated by a force of cavalry the difficulty is increased still further by the large number of horses, without which the men are hors de combat; the original dragoon, who served both on horse and foot, being extinct. He has not been able to hold his own, and the military working of the "theory of selection" has extinguished him.

In a campaign, supposing the existence of good roads and abundant forage, artillery and cavalry are not the most difficult parts of an army to move. But, if they can be carried to the actual field by railroad, the saving in time—the most important item—is immense. This is

Hussars. This is not a large force; the number of a full regiment of cavalry and one complete battery of field-guns do not reckon for much in a great war; but it required six immense trains, each of more than thirty carriages, to bring them down from the Islington station. The last train started thence at a quarter-past eleven, and had not disposed of its martial freight till nearly four o'clock. The first train down arrived within sight of the platform at ten o'clock, but, for some reason not at once perceptible, was halted there, and the men kept locked up in the carriages till one o'clock. It was a very close day; the artillery uniform is not the coolest summer wear, and most people know how stifling a closely-packed carriage is when motionless. When released the men rushed and leaped out, half stewed and exceedingly fagged, much more so than they would have been by any march of the same distance. But, as this detention may have been part of the test, we will not say it was unnecessary for the main object; only it seemed so. The horses being in open carriages did not suffer so much, but appeared very glad to feel the earth under their feet, and the guns behind them again. They stood, seven in each carriage, ready harnessed. The guns and ammunition-carts were on railway-trucks. The nicest part of the operation was adjusting the train to the platforms, so that each carriage should have its roadway exactly leaving from it. That arranged, the rest was easy. The men rushed out, the horses pranced down the platform, and the guns and carts descended the slope by their own weight. Nevertheless, each train occupied from thirty to forty minutes before it was clear. As soon as the cavalry mounted it left the ground, and proceeded by the by-road to London; the artillery drew up in the lane leading to the Harrow-road, the first guns halting till all had been got out. The whole battery then returned by the high road to Islington. The Earl of Cardigan was on the ground watching the proceedings.



W. E. FROST, A.R.A.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY THE LATE R. HOWLETT.)

evident enough. But the practical mode of doing it, the amount of railway plant required, and the efficiency of the railway staff for the operation, have by no means been fully tested. An experiment, however, was made on Wednesday week on rather a large scale, the results of which gave some idea of the time required to convey a combined force of artillery and cavalry from point to point by railroad. The London and North-Western Railway Company having received twenty hours' notice to prepare a point on one of their branch lines for "debarking," to use a foreign term, a certain number of troops, a piece of waste ground on the Willesden Junction line was selected for the purpose. A byway, leading from the great Harrow-road, crosses the rails, or rather the rails cross it on the level. On each side of this roadway a temporary platform had been raised, exactly resembling those of cattle stations. One ran for some distance parallel with the rails, with a sloping descent from it. The other was narrow, and at right angles to the railway. The difference of size was made purposely, and horses and guns were debarked at both to test the relative merits of this broad and narrow gauge. The smaller was merely a strong wooden framework, resting on sleepers, planked, and covered with ballast. The point from which the combined force departed was the Caledonian-road station; it consisted of the Grey battery of the Royal Artillery, which had arrived from Woolwich on the previous night, and between 400 and 500 cavalry, composed of the 2nd Life Guards and the 10th

Mr. Distin), was gained by the Blackdyke executants; the second prize (£25) by the Saltire band; the third (£15), the fourth (£10), and the fifth (£5), respectively by the Cyfarthfa, Darlington, and Dewsbury bands.

If not a highly artistic festival, this was unquestionably an interesting one, and as such seemed to be regarded by a very numerous assemblage.

The attendance on Wednesday, at the second and final contest, was far more numerous than at the first, the numbers present being considerably over 22,000. That this helped to give vigour and spirit to the proceedings may be readily believed. The preliminary trials in various parts of the grounds began, as before, at ten in the morning; and, as before, at three p.m., the whole force assembled in the Handel Orchestra to exhibit their united strength in a select programme. The pieces thus performed, under the able and energetic direction of Mr. Enderby Jackson, of Hull, were precisely the same as on the previous occasion. This time, however, the effect was still more astounding, the host of players exerting themselves with a zeal and unanimity worthy of unqualified praise. Three encores were demanded and accepted—viz., "Rule Britannia," Mendelssohn's Wedding March, and the National Anthem, all of which were executed with surprising brilliancy and precision.

The bands selected by the judges as worthiest to contend for the

BRASS BAND CONTEST
AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

COMPETITION seems to be the order of the day. On Monday the prizes of the first national "tir" in England were distributed in the presence of an immense concourse of persons at the Crystal Palace, and on Tuesday a considerable number of persons assembled in the same pleasant locality to witness the first great national contest between the brass bands of the country. It has not been uncommon, we believe, in the provinces to have occasional and partial contests of this kind; but this is the first occasion on which anything like a general and national display has taken place.

The united bands are supposed to include about 2000 performers upon brass instruments; but, fortunately, all these gentlemen did not display their powers at once; for if they had we know not what would have been the result to the walls of the great glass-house, such a very great noise did the efforts of one-half the maximum number of executants (to which the directors, on the first occasion, prudently limited their brazen forces) make in the great Handel Orchestra. After all present had played together for some time before the appointed judges, twelve bands were selected to contend for the prizes. These were the Saltire, Cyfarthfa, Deighton, Witney, Stanhope, Chesterfield, Staleybridge, Dewsbury, Blackdyke, Accrington, Holmfirth, and Darlington, and the pieces respectively played by them were selections from "Lucrezia Borgia," "The Bondman," "Ernani," "Il Trovatore," "Preciosa," "Il Trovatore," "Guillaume Tell," "Preciosa," and "Preciosa" again, "Nabuco," "Il Trovatore," and the "Kyrie" and "Gloria" from Haydn's second mass. The first prize, consisting of £40 in money, a splendid silver cup for the bandmaster, and a "champion" contra-basso in E flat, value thirty-five guineas (presented by the manufacturer,

prizes—again twelve in number—then successively exhibited their strength in the Handel Orchestra. The first prize—£30 in money, with a silver cup for the bandmaster, and a complete set of Boosey's *Brass Band Journal*, in 16 volumes, presented by the publishers—was awarded to the Cyfarthfa band, from Messrs. Crawshaw's Ironworks, South Wales. The piece selected for this band was Verdi's overture to "Nabucco." The second prize—£20 in money—fell to the Newbury band, who played a selection from the same composer's "Ernani;" the third prize—£15 to the Saxhorn band of Mr. James Bagnall's Ironworks, Goldhill, Staffordshire, for a scena and polacca by Perry; the fourth prize (£10) to the Chesterfield band, who gave a selection from "Lucrezia Borgia;" the fifth prize (£5) to the band from Meltham Hills, Yorkshire, for a performance of the "Hallelujah Chorus" of Handel. The Blackdyke and Saltaire bands, who had won the first and second prizes on Tuesday, were prohibited from contending on this occasion. Two extra prizes—an electro-plated cornet-a-piston by Courtois (presented by Messrs. Chappell and Hammond), and an electro-plated euphonium in B flat (presented by Messrs. Boosey for the best solo cornet and bass players)—were consigned to Mr. W. Blandford (Goldhill band), and Mr. John Walker (Cyfarthfa band).

The prizes were delivered to the successful competitors by Mr. Bowley, general manager of the Crystal Palace, who addressed them in brief and appropriate terms, expressed his belief in the good results that must accrue from the movement, acknowledged the liberality of the donors of prizes, and paid a well-deserved compliment to Mr. Enderby Jackson for the ability with which he had organised and directed the performances. A good deal of enthusiasm was elicited, and it was nearly nine o'clock before the proceedings had come to an end. For a nearly experiment of this kind the success was quite extraordinary.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

GERMAN music is in the ascendant this season at both our Italian Opera Houses and, indeed, in all the music-halls and concert-rooms of the metropolis. The great novelty at Her Majesty's Theatre has been Weber's "Oberon," which has just been produced with a cast of which to say, in playbill parlance, that it was "unprecedentedly strong," would be to say very little, inasmuch as that opera, though written specially for the English stage, has hitherto been always most ineffectually represented in this country. At the Royal Italian Opera Glück's "Orpheus and Eurydice," or "Orfeo," has been brought out, also with a cast of remarkable completeness, and, indeed, one that out of England would be quite unattainable. At Exeter Hall the oratorios that are performed at intervals throughout the year are, as most persons know, the work of Germans, though a few ultra-patriots persist in regarding Handel as an Englishman. Then at St. James's Hall by far the most successful concert of the season have been those known as the "Monday Popular," of which the great majority have been composed exclusively of chamber compositions by the great German masters, from Sebastian Bach to Mendelssohn. Finally, the most important performance of a separate work this season at the St. James's Hall has been that of Glück's "Iphigenia in Tauris," under the direction of Mr. Charles Hallé. In addition to all this Teutonic music we are promised a new version of "Der Freischütz" (that is to say, an Italian "Der Freischütz" with recitatives) at Covent Garden, and more than one critic has already inquired why, having "Der Freischütz" and "Oberon," we are not also to have "Euryanthe"—a question which, from a managerial point of view, it would be easy enough to answer (especially now that several pieces out of "Euryanthe" have been introduced, under the auspices of Mr. Benedict, into the Italian version of "Oberon"), though one who is *auditor tantum* says, of course, "let us have 'Euryanthe' by all means, and, if possible, 'Preciosa' also."

Glück's "Orfeo e Eurydice," given at the Royal Italian Opera for the first time at an evening concert, as our readers have already been informed, has since been presented three times to the public in the ordinary way of an operatic performance, and on one occasion was played (in lieu of the "Huguenots") by command of her Majesty, who, of course, attended the representation. "Orfeo" admirably as it is sung and played, and magnificently as it is put upon the stage, will not have a tithe of the success at the Royal Italian Opera that was obtained by Orpheus at the Théâtre Lyrique in Paris, where the French adaptation of Glück's work has already been given something like eighty times. Nevertheless, the execution of this opera must be better at the first of our London musical theatres than at the third musical theatre of Paris. The superiority of the Covent Garden orchestra is incontestable, and, though we have no doubt M. Viardot displays more dramatic genius than M. Csillag in the part of the hero (by far the most important in the opera, it is true), the characters of Eurydice, Love, and the Shade, cannot be so efficiently performed at the Théâtre Lyrique as at the Royal Italian Opera, where they are represented by Mme. Penco, Mme. Nantier-Didé, and Mme. Miolan-Carvalho. Probably the French authors have improved the dramatic form of the piece, which in the original and in the present Italian version is in four short but not untidious acts. The first of these is devoted entirely to the lamentations of Orfeo for his deceased wife. The grief of a husband under such circumstances is of course most laudable; but when it is expressed in strictly dramatic music—that is to say, not in songs but in a long series of phrases in which the music of each is exactly appropriate to the verbal phrase—it becomes wearisome to the operatic habitué, whether his wife be living, dead, or as yet unfound. In the second act Orfeo descends into the infernal regions, and here one of the finest scenes in the opera occurs, in which the demons interrupt with short, violent exclamations the love-song addressed by the despondent musician to the lost Eurydice, but are gradually affected and subdued by it, until they at last unite in a chorus of admiration. The third act serves no sort of dramatic purpose, except that it gives the composer an opportunity of contrasting the soft, flowing strains of the "happy shades" with the harsh, savage interjections of the accursed spirits. In the fourth act we have the return of Orpheus to the "upper air." No finer situation for dramatic music can be imagined than that in which Orpheus and Eurydice are here placed, and the duet is, indeed, full of the truest and sublimest emotion. All amateurs know the beautiful and passionate "Che farò," sung by Orpheus after Eurydice's second death; but what every one does not know is that Love appears, and restores her a second time to Orpheus and to life.

"Orfeo," as a whole, is not gay. Neither, however, is "Paradise Lost," nor are the tragedies of the Greeks, nor any very great works. Moreover, the music of "Orfeo" is never fanciful, like so much of the poetry of Shakespeare's plays. It is grand, simple, severe, and here and there unmetaphorically sublime; but, as a general rule, it is only by the very grandest portions of the opera (such as the scene in the infernal regions, and the duet between Orfeo and Eurydice) the ordinary frequenters of the Opera are likely to be impressed; and when they are not strongly impressed they will never be simply interested, which is the effect produced by most Italian music that one hears. Those who have heard "Orfeo" more than once like it better each time. Those who have it only once, and who remember none of the music, may nevertheless remember that it contains scenes which, thanks to the powerfulness of the music illustrating them, they can never forget. Glück's opera has been followed on two occasions by an act of "The Barber of Seville." How lively and brilliant the music of "The Barber" ought to sound after that of "Orfeo"! So it does, but also somewhat wanting in purpose, and, with all its brilliancy and melody, somewhat feeble. We think, for our part, that it is scarcely fair either to Rossini or to Glück to play the "Barber" and "Orfeo" on the same evening.

Weber's "Oberon," at Her Majesty's Theatre, is magnificently performed—at least as regards the principal parts, which are allotted to Mdlle. Titiens, Mdlle. Albani, and M. Mongini, Belart, Everardi, and Gassier. "Oberon," Weber's last work, was composed, as most of our readers must be aware, for Covent Garden Theatre, where it was given, for the first time, on the 12th of April, 1826. Six weeks afterwards Weber died; and his death has been variously attributed, by certain Continental critics, to the labour of producing "Oberon" and to the natural want of appreciation shown for the work by the barbarous

English audience to whom it was addressed. The absurdity of these fables is best proved by a reference to Weber's "Posthumous Works" (Hinterlassene Schriften), in which his letters from London express nothing but gratitude and delight at the manner in which he was received by the English. The subject of "Oberon," like that of "Der Freischütz" and "Euryanthe," was suggested by Weber himself to the author of the libretto, who in this case was our well-known dramatist Mr. J. R. Planché. Mr. Planché sent the book, scene by scene, as he finished them, to the composer at Dresden, who, on the 16th of February, 1826, started for London with the opera completed, and arrived there (after passing through Paris, where he met Rossini) on the 2nd of March. He was welcomed with an enthusiasm which went on increasing until it reached its greatest height when "Oberon" was produced. In a letter to his wife, written immediately after the conclusion of the first representation, he says:—"My dear Lina, thanks to God and to his all-powerful will, I have obtained this evening the greatest success of my life. The emotion which a triumph has produced in me is impossible to describe. To God alone is the honour. (*Gott allein die Ehre!*) When I entered the orchestra, the whole house, which was crowded to the roof, burst into a frenzy of applause. Hats and handkerchiefs were waved in the air. The overture had to be repeated, and so had several pieces in the opera. The air that Braham sings in the first act was encored, as were also Fatima's romance, and the quartet in the second act. They even wanted to hear the finale a second time. In the third act Fatima's ballad was demanded, and at the end of the performance I was called on to the stage by the enthusiastic applause of the audience—an honour that no composer had ever obtained in England before. Everything went well, and all around me seemed happy." The reception, then, of "Oberon" in England did not afflict the composer with any mortal sadness; but it is equally true that the enthusiasm it created the first night was not manifested at subsequent performances. Still, all the "Oberon" musicians and connoisseurs of England had not only appreciated but had listened to it with delight, while as regards its success, in a popular point of view, it may be mentioned that the overture and several of the principal morceaux (especially the scenes for the tenor and the prima donna) have been stock-pieces for the concert-room ever since the music of "Oberon" was first made known.

"Oberon" was translated into German under Weber's own supervision, by his friend Theodore Hell, and was represented for the first time at Leipzig in the month of February, 1827, with great success. In 1831 it was produced in Paris by a German company, and was afterwards translated into French by M. Maurice Bourges, whose version was published in 1842. "Oberon," however, was not performed on the French stage in the French language until two or three years since, when it was given at the Théâtre Lyrique, with Mme. Miolan-Carvalho and Mme. Rossi-Caccia, in the parts sustained at her Majesty's Theatre by Mdlle. Titiens and Mdlle. Albani. The original representative of Huon (a character now assigned to Sig. Mongini) was written for Braham—or rather, it was Braham who first sang it, for Weber did not write parts expressly to suit the peculiarities of popular singers. The original Rezia was, as every one knows, Miss Paton, who, according to an anecdote in which we place but little faith, ruined her health by the efforts she made to give effect to the air of the second act, "Ocean, mighty monster." The performance and general getting up of "Oberon" at Her Majesty's Theatre reflect the greatest credit on the artists and on the management. At the time of our writing it has been given thrice; but it will, we have no doubt, be played some dozen times in the course of the present season, and we shall take an early opportunity of noticing the execution in detail.

We have spoken so often of the Monday Popular Concerts that at present we need only say of the last for the present season, which has just taken place, that it included compositions from all the great masters whose dramatic compositions have been given from time to time at the "People's Philharmonic" since the commencement of these excellent entertainments, now nearly two years since.

FATAL FURNACE EXPLOSION.—A fearful accident took place on Sunday last, at Bilton, at the blast-furnaces belonging to the Messrs. Hickman. It appears that the water escaped from one of the pipes, and flowing among the molten metal, produced a rapid generation of steam, followed by an explosion of a terrible character. Five tons of metal were driven out of the furnace with prodigious force over the dam placed at the bottom. Two men who were at work close to the dam were so shockingly burnt that they died the same night. The keeper of the furnace also sustained some injuries, but two other men who were near him escaped unhurt.

"SELLING" THE JAPANESE.—The Japanese have been vigorously fêted at New York, and dragged about to view the "lions." Among other things they were taken to a wedding, on the conclusion of which some of them were requested to sign their names to the marriage certificate, which they did. During their visit to the fish-market they were, it is stated, invited to partake of oysters. They were evidently unused to the article in question, for when one was presented, on the half-shell, to Eton Zu Tsue Zodo that gentleman attempted to eat the shell and all; and, upon discovering his mistake, felt so disgusted that, together with his companions, he left the market without delay.

FRENCH FREE TRADE.—Another measure of partial free trade has just issued from the French Government. By Imperial decree, dated the 25th of June, and issued in compliance with a proposition made by the Minister for Algeria and the Colonies, Count de Chasseloup-Laubat, all produce of Sahara and Soudania will be henceforward admitted duty free into Algeria, when imported across the southern frontier. The trade between Central Africa and the Mediterranean had hitherto avoided Algiers altogether, and had taken the way of Tripoli, Tunis, or Fez.

A MISTAKEN PERK.—Lord Hardwicke, referring to the volunteer movement at a public dinner last week, said:—"Applications had been made to him, as Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, to allow an organisation of the humbler classes of society, but he had peremptorily refused; and he should continue to do so, because he held that that most intelligent, useful, respectable, and important body of men had duties of another kind to perform. If they wished to carry a musket, or enter any military volunteer force, the militia regiments of the country were short of something like 50,000 men, and were ready to receive these most worthy candidates for military service. He also thought there was a great difference between arming men of property and men of none. He said not one single word in regard to the character of the working classes; on the contrary, he held it in the highest veneration—but if a weapon were given to a man who had no property—whether it were a civil weapon or a military one—his natural tendency would be to acquire a property which he had not got."

THE WRECK OF THE "SAPPHIRE."—We are requested to state that of the persons wrecked last October in the *Sapphire*, near Torres Straits, the following have reached Port Curtis in safety:—R. Western, Captain Madras N.I., England; W. Beveridge, mate, Scotland; John Walker, Dublin, Ireland; H. J. Sampson, Mudgee, New South Wales; Thomas C. Clarke, Birmingham, England; W. Reid, Scotland; J. Crawford, Ireland; — Mitchell, Corfu; J. N. Denmore, Liverpool; R. Law, American (picked up from life-boat). The following are missing:—John M. Kinlay, from Greenock, Scotland; Joel Bowden, Plymouth, England; Joseph Watson, Dublin, Ireland; Charles F. Schmalfluss; David Dougall, Greenock; John Conquest, Sweden; William Warren, England; Ebenezer Tibby, England; Isaac Devereux, Wales; John Morris, Dublin; James Allain, Saltcoats, Scotland; Charles Campbell, Elgin; Jubes Jullif, London; William Turk, Glasgow; William Charleton, Newcastle, England; James Connell, Cork, Ireland; Michael McKenna, Ireland; Henry Armstrong, England. The persons on board the *Sapphire* left her in two boats, one containing Schmalfluss and all the survivors, except Law; the other containing Law and all the missing persons, except Schmalfluss. The boats parted company, and were both attacked by savages. In one Schmalfluss was killed. In the other there can be no doubt that all on board were murdered except Law, who threw himself into the water, and was eventually picked up by the boat which escaped.

THE PEERS' INNOVATIONS.—A crowded meeting assembled at St. Martin's Hall on Monday to protest against the aggression of the House of Lords. On Wednesday a conference of gentlemen from all parts of the country was held at the King's Arms Hotel to decide upon the action which the friends of constitutional freedom should take in order to defeat the aggression. A Mr. Hargreaves presided, and among the principal speakers were Alderman Rylands, of Warrington; Lord Tynham; Mr. Councillor Scott, of Rochdale; the Rev. W. Griffiths, of Derby; Mr. Rawlings, of Liverpool; and many other Reformers. Alderman Toale, of Oxford, a paper-manufacturer, expressed his willingness to try the legality of the tax which the Lords have imposed by refusing to pay it. One of the resolutions called upon members of the House of Commons to use any means that the forms of the House allow to prevent the passing of supplies until the illegal act of the Peers has been set aside.

THE NINE HOURS MOVEMENT AND LORD ROBERT MONTAGU, M.P.

LORD ROBERT MONTAGU, M.P., has taken up the Nine Hours Movement. He presided over a crowded meeting at St. Martin's Hall, on Wednesday evening, and made a most injudicious speech:—

It had been truly said that the labourer ought to have a fair day's wage for a fair day's work. That involved the two questions—what is a fair day's work, and what is a fair day's wage? Lord Cranworth had thought proper to deliver a judgment upon the question, and to settle it for ever, when he said that wages should be the subject of a free bargain between the employer and the employed. Understood rightly, every one must assent to those words; but how could there be freedom when one party to the bargain could close his works until that bargain was struck, revel in luxury and ease, and idle in the lap of luxury, whilst the other party might starve or die till he got employment? When asked what they meant by a free bargain, the employers of labour answered with a sneer, "Oh, it is your ignorance of political economy; if you understood political economy, you would know that wages are subject to supply and demand, and that you must bear your hard lot with patience and resignation, and not utter a murmur." The pet maxim of these political economists was,—"buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest (Cheers)." It would be very easy for the employed to retort in the same strain, and say, "A maximum of wages for a minimum of labour," which meant "obtain as much wages as we can, and husband our strength for the next day's labour." Men should have the option of raising the price of their labour. Landlords could raise their rents, and merchants the price of their wares, and capitalists the interest for their money. Was it not equally just that the labourer should be at liberty to raise the price of his commodity? That was fair according to the notion of political economists, but that was an utterly wrong and low view of the question. Labour should not be subject to the rules of a market price—the labourer was not like wool or cotton. The poet had expressed that thought much better than he (Lord R. Montagu) could when he sang of the needlewomen of London:—

Oh, men, with sisters dear,
Oh, men, with mothers and wives,
'Tis not your linen you're wearing out,
But human creatures' lives.

Tremendous cheering). The employers, fairly beaten out of that argument, strengthened themselves in the next citadel of their self-interest, and said, "May we not do what we will with our own?" The retort was very easy, "May not we—the employed—do as we will with our own?" In reference to the opportunities which working men should possess to enjoy leisure, and to elevate themselves intellectually and socially, the speaker said that they had not merely to consider whether nine hours was the utmost time in which a man could work. He felt justified in assuming in the case of many that nine hours' work represented at least twelve hours' absence from the family. And yet the families of the working men required the same supervision which others did, and how were they to give it if they were away from home from daybreak till their children were asleep in bed? Many of the improvements in machinery which had so distinguished the last twenty or thirty years had emanated from working men, who had given them, in many instances, to their employers, receiving nothing in return. Providence did not give to men the capacity of invention merely that he might increase his wealth, but that he might be of benefit to the race. John Stuart Mill, the greatest political economist in the world, had said, in examination before a Select Committee of the House of Commons, that without competition machinery would be a great blessing to the working man, giving him more time for self-culture; but that the good had been confined to a few, and machinery had been made to supplant and not to help humanity.

This harangue was frequently interrupted by tumultuous applause. Mr. Potter afterwards announced that five or six metropolitan members had been invited to preside, but one was busy, another made it a rule never to preside out of his own borough, another was too unwell, another had much business in the House, and another thought he should be a partisan; but Lord Robert Montagu had come forward and consented, after all the others had declined. Since his Lordship's name had been announced, others had said they would follow in their turn; and his Lordship's coming forward had gained a great many adherents to the nine hours movement.

The following resolutions were carried by the meeting:—

That we believe our request for a reduction of the hours of labour justified by the first principles of political economy, and that, by the increased skill and rapidity of manipulation acquired by the workmen, the necessity for the ten hour's system has passed away; the building operatives, in conjunction with machinery, being enabled to produce sufficient for the requirements of society by labouring nine hours per day.

That this meeting regrets the late refusal of the master builders to discuss the nine hours question with a deputation from the men, believing such refusal to be inimical to the interests and position of the employers, and calculated to engender embittered feelings between themselves and their workmen at a time when every effort should be made to render the interests, welfare, and progress of both identical. Being convinced that the concession we seek is necessary to the preservation of our physical, and the expansion of our intellectual and moral powers, we pledge ourselves to press our claim until it has been conceded.

GENERAL HARNEY.—This urbane soldier has been recalled, and some correspondence explanatory of the circumstances which have led to that step was laid upon the table of the House of Commons on Saturday last. The first despatch is one from Lord Lyons to Lord J. Russell, explaining the nature of General Harney's proceedings, and inclosing a copy of that person's orders, written at the headquarters in Oregon, and addressed to the officer commanding the detachment of American troops stationed at San Juan. In these orders General Harney directs his subordinate to recognize the civil authority of Washington territory, and makes the significant remark that he is "satisfied that any attempt of the British commander to ignore the rights of the territory will be followed by deplorable results out of his power to control." Admiral Baynes, the commander of her Majesty's naval forces in the Pacific, forwarded a copy of this document to Lord Lyons, who lost no time in addressing a remonstrance to the American Government. On June 8 his Lordship was able to transmit a copy of a most satisfactory despatch which he had received from General Cass, the American Secretary of State. This high functionary frankly admits that General Harney's proceedings were in direct violation of the arrangement which was made by his predecessor, General Scott; and he further states that General Harney has been recalled, and his orders revoked.

OUR EXPORTS.—The following table, giving the total exports for the three years 1847, 1848, and 1849, and for 1857, 1858, and 1859, shows that the business of the manufacturers has doubled, and the profits have most likely been in the same proportion. Declared real value of principal articles of British and Irish produce exported from the United Kingdom:—

	Total for the three years, 1847, 1848, 1849.	Total for the three years, 1857, 1858, 1859.
Apparel	£3,301,000	£17,932,000
Beer and ale	1,232,000	5,569,000
Brass and copper	4,675,000	8,579,000
Coals and coke	3,144,000	9,244,000
Cotton manufactures	54,199,000	102,538,000
Cotton twist	18,589,000	27,738,000
Earthenware and porcelain	2,363,000	3,957,000
Hardware and cutlery	6,403,000	11,102,000
Iron and steel	15,030,000	37,115,000
Leather and leather wares	1,339,000	6,311,000
Linen manufactures	9,255,000	13,245,000
Linen yarn	1,875,000	5,068,000
Machinery	2,781,000	11,214,000
Silk	506,000	2,667,000
Silk manufactures	2,064,000	4,671,000
Tin plates and tin ware	1,763,000	4,477,000
Woolen manufactures	19,972,000	32,534,000
Woolen and worsted yarn	2,868,000	9,012,000
	£153,359,000	£313,244,000

NEW GOVERNMENT MAP OF CANADA.—An excellent Government map of the province has been published, having been commenced by Mr. Doxey shortly before the meeting of the last Session of Parliament. It embraces the country lying between the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the Red River, and extends as far north as the 52nd degree of north latitude. It is drawn to a scale of 30 miles to an inch, and is 5 ft. 6 in. in length by 2 ft. 6 in. in depth. It gives all the post-offices in Upper and Lower Canada and their respective positions, the counties, townships, and parishes, and the railroads in operation in the province, with their several stations and their intermediate distances in miles, and all the colonisation and common roads. The recent explorations and surveys are also carefully represented. When we take into account the limited time at the disposal of the compiler, who has used his own manuscript map of Upper Canada, which he has been constructing for many years, its completeness and accuracy are surprising.

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